

Copyright Infringement

In compliance with the United States Department of Education and the Code of Federal Regulations (34 CFR 668.43(a)(10), Zion Massage College prohibits students and staff members from the unauthorized distribution of copyrighted material. Prohibited distribution includes unauthorized peer-to-peer file sharing and illegal downloading of intellectual property. In addition to civil and criminal penalties, violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action which may include restriction from use of ZMC's computer lab, and suspension from ZMC's Professional Massage Therapy Program. Students may contact ZMC Administration with any questions or for guidance regarding the Copyright Infringement policy.

Summary of Penalties for Violation of Federal Copyright Laws

Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under section 106 of the Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). These rights include the right to reproduce or distribute a copyrighted work. In the file-sharing context, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority constitutes an infringement.

Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or "statutory" damages affixed at not less than \$750 and not more than \$30,000 per work infringed. For "willful" infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys' fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Section 504, 505.

Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties, including imprisonment of up to five years and fines of up to \$250,000 per offense. For more information, please see the website of the U.S. Copyright Office at <http://www.copyright.gov>, including the FAQ's at <http://www.copyright.gov/help/faq>.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious violation of ZMC's Code of Conduct. Plagiarism occurs when an ideas, images, computer programs, sounds, designs, hardcopy or electronic text or any form of performance or creative work are used without acknowledgement of the author/creator of the work. Willful deception is a key component in determining the severity of plagiarism and consequences are determined based on the student's intent from "strong intention to deceive" to "weak intention to deceive." This continuum reflects a spectrum of most severe, where there is intent by the student to knowingly present a work or creation as her original work, to least severe, which includes forgetting to properly cite and reference works and/or careless writing.

Students who are found to have engaged in plagiarism will receive a reduction in their course grade and may be placed on probation, suspended or dismissed from the program. Any local, state, or federal violations/crimes will be reported to the proper government authorities.