

Rockingham Community College

Notice to Students Regarding Online Communities

Rockingham Community College recognizes that many students participate in online communities such as Facebook and MySpace in positive ways to connect with and interact with others. At the same time, however, users should be aware of the potential down sides and dangers of such directories. While the College is not responsible for material published on social networking sites by our students, RCC would like to offer the following suggestions to help keep our students safe.

First, be aware that anything that you post online is public information available for anyone to see, read, or print. Your professors, your parents, your future employers and undergraduate and graduate school admissions officers may easily be able to log onto your site. Be conscious of the image you are creating for yourself.

Second, when using any online community confirm that the most private security setting is selected. Using all of the security tools and privacy settings on these sites effectively is to your advantage.

Third, avoid listing personal information such as address, phone numbers, and class schedules. Your “friends” will already know this information. Withholding personal contact information from public online community websites reduces your chances of being stalked, harassed or victimized.

Fourth, you should know that while MySpace, Facebook and similar directories are hosted outside RCC servers, violations of College policy on online communities (for example, using harassing language, reference to drug or substance abuse taking place on campus, or other violations of the Student Code of Conduct) are subject to investigation and sanction.

Fifth, and finally, participation in online communities while on campus utilizes RCC resources intended to support the research, educational, and administrative purposes of the College. At any time, you may be asked by a member of the faculty or staff to refrain from using College resources for personal entertainment in order to respect the rights of other users seeking to complete educational and administrative assignments.