

In accordance with the following statement in the Student Rights, Regulations, and Procedures Handbook, the purpose of this webpage is to offer Clarion University students facts and tips to keep in mind when using the internet social networking sites.

“Students and recognized organizations are cautioned that any material posted on the internet, including social networking sites and internet blogs is not private or protected information. You may be held accountable for content posted in this manner and information obtained from this source may be considered in cases of misconduct. For complete information on the potential consequences of posting inappropriate content on an internet site, please visit <http://www.clarion.edu/judicial>.”

Facebook, MySpace, LiveJournal, Xanga, Blogster, etc...

1. Who’s Responsible?

- Much like the content on your resume, you are responsible for what you post on the internet. While you can’t control with certainty who views your information, you can control the type of information you display.

2. Who’s on Facebook, MySpace, etc?

- Your best friend from middle school, your old next door neighbor, your RA, your Chemistry professor, your Aunt, your boss from your job at the pizza place, the police, a potential employer at the internship location where you just interviewed, a lonely stalker, and so on... Anyone can join these sites and potentially gain access to your information. Potential employers may not have access to your site, but a current intern at the company who belongs to your school’s network could easily print off your profile and share it.

3. I keep strict security settings & only my friends can see it!

- Just because you’ve changed your privacy settings or deleted incriminating photos, doesn’t mean your information can’t come back to haunt you. These sites do not use secure encryption, meaning there’s a chance ISP software can hijack the transmission of your profile and use it against you. Deleting items may avoid problems in the future, but you never know how many people have printed or saved your profile or pictures. Also, Many ISPs and servers routinely back up or duplicate your information, thus saving it indefinitely.

4. It’s my personal site... what I post on there can’t be held against me.

- Police departments and campus officials are increasingly using social networking sites to identify potential suspects in crimes. While Clarion University officials will not routinely monitor these sites, if a violation is brought to their attention an investigation can begin.

Keep This in Mind...

1. If something you post would embarrass or disappoint your 92-year old grandma, or you would not put it in the newspaper, don’t post it.
2. Only accept “Friend Requests” from people that you know and trust.
3. You only have one chance to make a first impression – don’t let your profile ruin it for you.
4. Think twice before advertising parties and events involving alcohol, even if everyone you invite is 21 years old.
5. The privacy settings are there for a reason – use them.

Resources:

Cornell University, “Thoughts on Facebook”
Mercyhurst College, “Face the Facts”