



Confidentiality Agreement and Security Policy

Responsible Office	Information Resources and Technology	Effective Date	11/07/2023
Responsible Official	Chief Information Officer	Last Revision	11/01/2013

Fairleigh Dickinson University regards security and confidentiality of data and information to be of utmost importance. Each individual granted access to electronic and/or hard copy data holds a position of trust and must preserve the security and confidentiality of the information to which he/she is granted access to. Therefore, it is the intent of this policy to ensure that University data, in any format, is not divulged outside of Fairleigh Dickinson University without explicit approval to do so by an Associate Vice-President of the University or higher who has responsibility for the data in question. As such, the University requires all users of data to follow the procedures outlined below:

Policy on Confidential Information

Users of University data are required to abide by all applicable Federal and State guidelines and University policies regarding confidentiality of data, including the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") and, as applicable, The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"). For more information, see https://www.fdu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/hrconfidentiality_policy2013.pdf (FDU's general confidentiality policy); <https://www.fdu.edu/about/university-leadership-offices/office-of-enrollment-services/records-procedures-and-services/student-privacy-rights-and-ferpa/> (regarding FERPA); and <https://www.fdu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/hipaaprivacynotice2009.pdf> (regarding HIPAA).

Confidential Information shall be defined as:

- regarding student, faculty or staff: any personally-identifiable records, financial records (including social security and credit card numbers), health records; contracts, research data; alumni and donor records; personnel records other than an individual's own personnel record;
- regarding the University: University financial data; computer and system passwords, University issued PINS, University proprietary information/data; and
- any other information for which access, use, or disclosure is not authorized by: 1) federal, state, or local law; or 2) University policy.

The individual receiving the Confidential Information shall have no obligation under this Policy with respect to Confidential Information which:

- is or becomes publicly available without breach of this Policy by the recipient;
- is rightfully received by the recipient without obligations of confidentiality; or
- is developed by the recipient without breach of this Policy; provided, however, such Confidential Information shall not be disclosed until thirty (30) days after written notice of intent to disclose is given to the University officer who has responsibility for the data in question, along with the asserted grounds for disclosure;
- is disclosed in accordance with any “whistle blower” action as provided in the U.S. False Claims Act, the New Jersey Conscientious Employee Protection Act (“NJCEPA”), or similar legislation. (Brief overview of the NJCEPA is available at <https://www.fdu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/19517.pdf>)

Any individual with authorized access to the Confidential Information is given access solely for the business of the University and must not divulge the Confidential Information outside of the University except for University business requirements approved by the President of the University or the division head responsible for the data in question. Specifically, with respect to Confidential Information, individuals must:

1. Access Confidential Information solely in order to perform his/her job responsibilities.
2. Not seek personal benefit or permit others to benefit personally from any Confidential Information that has come to them throughout their work assignments.
3. Not make or permit unauthorized use of any Confidential Information in the University’s information system or other records.
4. Not enter, change, delete or add data to any information system or files outside of the scope of their job responsibilities.
5. Not include or cause to be included in any record or report, a false, inaccurate or misleading entry known to the user as such.
6. Not alter or delete or cause to be altered or deleted from any records, report or information system, a true and correct entry.
7. Not release Confidential Information other than what is required in completion of job responsibilities which is consistent with this Policy.
8. Not exhibit or divulge the contents of any record, file or information system to any person unless it is necessary for the completion of their job responsibilities.

It is the individual’s responsibility to immediately report, as outlined under “Information Security Breach and Violation Reporting” at the end of this Policy, if the individual has violated this Policy. Additionally, given the potential harm that the University may suffer with the release of any Confidential Information, all employees are strongly encouraged to report any suspected violation of this policy or any other action, which violates confidentiality of data, as outlined at the end of this policy .

Security Measures and Procedures

All users of University information systems, including Datatel, MS File shares and FDU Office 365 email accounts, are supplied with an individual user account to access the data or systems necessary for the completion of their job responsibilities. Users of the University information systems are required to follow the procedures outlined below:

1. All transactions, processed by a user ID and password, or PIN, are the responsibility of

the person to whom the user ID was assigned. The user's ID, password, and PIN must remain confidential and must not be shared with anyone.

- Using someone else's user ID, password or PIN is a violation of policy, no matter how it was obtained.
- Your user ID, password or PIN provides access to information that has been granted specifically to you. To reduce the risk of shared passwords – remember not to post your password or PIN on or near your workstation or share your password or PIN with anyone.
- It is your responsibility to change your password immediately if you believe someone else has obtained it.

Note: If you need your Password or PIN changed, please contact the University Technical Assistance Center (UTAC) 973 443 UTAC immediately.

2. Access to any student or employee information (in any format) is to be determined based on specific job requirements. The appropriate Department Chair, School Director, Department Director/Manager, Dean, Provost, and/or Vice President is responsible for ensuring that access is granted only to authorized individuals, based on their job responsibilities. Written authorization must be received by the Computer Center prior to granting system access.

You are prohibited from viewing or accessing additional information (in any format) unless you have been authorized to do so. Any access obtained without written authorization is considered unauthorized access.

In order to prevent unauthorized use, the user shall log off of all applications that provide access to confidential information, or lock their computer when leaving their workstation. This is especially important during breaks and lunch. Unless there is a specific business need, all workstations should be shut down at the end of the workday.

Note: If you require assistance in establishing your workstation password, please access the screensaver documentation or contact the University Technical Assistance Center (UTAC) at 973-443-UTAC.

3. If you have any reason to believe your password or PIN has been compromised or revealed inadvertently, you should change your password and immediately notify one of the individuals as outlined under "Information Security Breach and Violation Reporting" at the end of this policy.

Note: all University's computer system will periodically prompt you to change your password.

4. Upon termination or transfer of an employee, Human Resources will notify University Systems and Security, who in turn will notify the appropriate areas in the Computer Center.
5. Generally, students, temporary employees and consultants should not have access to the University record system. Written approval by the Department Chair, School Director, Department Director/Manager, Dean, Provost, and/or Vice President in charge of the respective area is required if it is determined that access is required. The

student, temporary employee or consultant is to be held to the same standards as all University employees, and must be made aware of their responsibilities to protect student and employee privacy rights and data integrity. Written authorization must be received by the Computer Center prior to granting system access.

6. You agree to properly secure and dispose of any outputs or files you create in a manner that fully protects the Confidential Information.

Additionally, I understand that if granted access to process transactions via Datatel data entry screens, any information I enter or change will be effective immediately. Accordingly, I understand that I am responsible for any changes made using my ID.

I understand that my access to University data is for the sole purpose of carrying out my job responsibilities and Confidential Information is not to be divulged outside of The University, except as previously stated. Breach of confidentiality, including aiding, abetting, or acting in conspiracy with any other person to violate any part of this policy, may result in sanctions, civil or criminal prosecution and penalties, employment and/or University disciplinary action, and could lead to dismissal, suspension or revocation of all access privileges. I understand that misuse of University data and any violation of this policy or the FERPA, HIPAA or GLB policies are grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. This Agreement shall not abridge nor supersede any rights afforded faculty members under the Faculty Handbook.

Information Security Breach and/or Policy Violation Reporting

If you suspect an Information Security Data Breach or a violation of this policy, report such an event to your department chair or staff supervisor and send an immediate email to violation@fdu.edu. If you do not have immediate access to email, contact the University Technical Assistance Center (UTAC) at 973-443-8822; do not provide details but request a ticket be opened with University Systems & Networking due to a information security data breach or policy violation requesting an immediate callback. When practical, also send an email to violation@fdu.edu.