

Wireless Access Policy

Scope

This policy applies to the deployment and operation of wireless network equipment and other devices operating in unlicensed frequencies on the campus of Muskegon Community College. The policy also applies to all segments of MCC's wireless computer network. This includes all administrative, academic, and commercial areas which are part of MCC's family of buildings, as well as, any outdoor spaces on the campus.

Responsibilities

MCC would like to encourage people to use their own technology on our campus. To promote this we provide wireless access to various computer networks. Users of wireless connections at MCC are required to keep their computer's virus protection up-to-date, as well as, install the latest operating system security patches.

In addition, users need to be aware that MCC does not filter wireless access to the Internet and cannot provide secure wireless connections or printing services to those wireless connections. As a result, MCC is not responsible for the loss or damage that may occur, directly or indirectly, to personal equipment and data through the use of our wireless connections. Parents or guardians are responsible for children brought onto campus.

MCC's computing and telecommunication networks, computing equipment and computing resources are owned by MCC and are provided to support its academic and administrative functions. Federal and state laws, along with MCC policies and standards, govern the use of this equipment and technologies.

While departments may adopt additional rules and regulations to meet specific administrative or academic needs, any additional requirements must be in compliance with applicable federal and state laws, and this policy.

Access to MCC's wireless computer networks is a privilege that can be withdrawn when individuals abuse it. Behaviors that result in the loss of computer network privileges and possibly disciplinary actions are found in the Computer Usage Policy.

Enforcement

The Information Technology (IT) department is solely responsible for implementation of wireless technology, enforcing campus network standards, and has the authority to resolve frequency interference issues. IT determines the identity and authenticates all users connecting to the campus network.

Standards

MCC has adopted the following approved standard protocols for wireless networking of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) (IEEE 802.11a, IEEE 802.11b and IEEE 802.11g). The primary purpose of these protocols is not so much to provide separate networks but to ensure that adjacent access points with slightly overlapping areas of coverage do not interfere with each other. It is therefore not feasible to allow individuals to install their own access points without centralized coordination, due to the resulting signal interference and greatly degraded performance of the common wireless network. Access points can interfere with each other and other communications devices or appliances if not administered or deployed properly. Potential problems using microwave ovens and cordless telephones is a prominent example. The IT department will manage the shared use of unlicensed frequencies for the campus community and campus authority to resolve interference issues.

SSID FOR MUSKEGON COMMUNITY COLLEGE WIRELESS IS MCC-INET

Security

Wireless networks are not as secure as wired networks and security for wireless networks is evolving. The IT department is responsible for establishing security policies for wireless communications based on current best practices. All wireless network installations must comply with established security policies including the addressing of campus-wide Internet Protocol (IP) and Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) services. As mentioned above, users of wireless connections at MCC are required to keep their computer's virus protection up-to-date, as well as, install the latest operating system security patches.