

# Social Networking Policy

Missouri Valley College recognizes that social networking web sites (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram), are a part of the College's culture. Social networking web sites offer students many opportunities to keep connected with their family, friends, and other social groups, not only at MVC, but across the world. When students connect with others online, they typically post information, including pictures and other content to share, with all of those who are able to access the web site.

Occasionally, students will post information that is deemed threatening or illegal or may be a violation of MVC policy. Examples include photos or statements depicting hazing, harassment, illegal drug or alcohol use, or containing threatening. Violations of MVC policy, or evidence of such violations in the content of social networks or platforms, are subject to investigation and sanction under MVC's Student Handbook or Student Code of Conduct, and may result in discipline up to and including dismissal from MVC.

## Guidelines for Students Accessing Social Networking Web Sites

These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for MVC students to conduct themselves safely and responsibly in an online environment. Student at Missouri Valley College should:

- Be careful with how much and what kind of identifying information is posted on social networking web sites. Virtually anyone with an email address can access your personal page. Posting personal information such as date of birth, social security number, address, residence hall room number, class schedule, bank account information, or details about daily routine is extremely dangerous and is not recommended. Such personal information can facilitate identity theft or stalking. Facebook and other sites provide numerous privacy settings for information contained in its pages, so use these settings to protect personal information; however, once posted, the information becomes the property of the web site.
- Potential and current employers often access information placed on social networking web sites, so any information posted on Facebook or similar directories provides an image of you to an employer. The information is considered public information. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image that you can be proud of years from now.
- Do not respond to unsolicited emails asking for passwords or PIN numbers. Reputable businesses never ask for this information in emails.
- Be aware that messages or postings placed on a social networking web site may be perceived as offensive or threatening, or as a violation of MVC's Student Handbook or Code of Conduct. Messages or postings on social networking web sites often lack context, and, though intended to be a joke or something merely humorous, they may not be perceived in that way. MVC retains complete discretion in determining whether activity on a social networking web site constitutes a violation of MVC's policies.