

Procedure 29.01.03.T1.05 (Effective 5/4/2006)
(Supplements [Rule 29.01.03.T1](#))

Information Resources – Email Use

PROCEDURE:

1. GENERAL

University information resources are strategic assets and as such must be managed as valuable state resources. Since a large portion of University business is conducted using email, it is important that email services function in an efficient and reliable manner. This Standard Administrative Procedure (SAP), therefore, addresses expected standards for University email usage.

2. APPLICABILITY

This SAP provides procedures regarding the use of email through University owned information resources.

The purpose of the implementation of this SAP is to provide a set of measures that will mitigate information security risks associated with email use. There may also be other or additional measures that will provide appropriate mitigation of the risks. The assessment of potential risks and the application of appropriate mitigation measures are to be determined by the information resource owner or their designee. In accordance with *Texas Administrative Code 202 - Information Security Standards*, each department and/or resource owner may elect not to implement some or all of the risk mitigation measures provided in this SAP based on information security risk management decisions and business functions. Such risk management decisions must be documented and reported to the designated Information Security Officer (ISO).

The intended audience of this SAP is any University employee, student, guest, or visitor that may use any University information resource that has the capacity to send, receive or store email.

3. DEFINITIONS

1. Information Resources (IR): the procedures, equipment, and software that are designed, employed, operated, and maintained to collect, record, process, store, retrieve, display, and transmit information or data.

4. PROCEDURES

1. The following activities are prohibited:
 - Sending email that is intimidating or harassing
 - Using email for conducting personal business
 - Using email for purposes of political lobbying or campaigning
 - Violating copyright laws by inappropriately distributing protected works
 - Posing as anyone other than oneself when sending email, except when authorized to send messages for another when serving in an administrative support role
 - The use of unauthorized email software

2. The following activities are prohibited because they impede the functioning of network communications and the efficient operations of electronic mail systems:
 - Sending or forwarding chain letters
 - Sending unsolicited messages to large groups except as required to conduct Tarleton State University business
 - Sending excessively large messages
 - Sending or forwarding email that is likely to contain computer viruses
3. All sensitive and/or confidential Tarleton State University material transmitted over external network should be encrypted.
4. All user activity on Tarleton State University information resources assets is subject to logging and review.
5. Electronic mail users must not give the impression that they are representing, giving opinions, or otherwise making statements on behalf of Tarleton State University or any unit of Tarleton State University unless appropriately authorized (explicitly or implicitly) to do so. Where appropriate, an explicit disclaimer will be included unless it is clear from the context that the author is not representing Tarleton State University. An example of a simple disclaimer is: “the opinions expressed are my own, and not necessarily those of my employer.”
6. Individuals must not send, forward or receive confidential or sensitive Tarleton State University information through non-Tarleton State University email accounts. Examples of non-Tarleton State University email accounts include, but are not limited to: Hotmail, Yahoo mail, AOL mail, and email provided by other Internet Service Providers (ISP).

OFFICE OF RESPONSIBILITY: Department of Information Resources

CONTACT: Executive Director of Information Resources