

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary Internet Usage Agreement

Kenrick-Glennon seminary is equipped with wireless Internet access as well as public computers, both of which are intended primarily to assist seminarians in their academic work and in their personal and spiritual development. In using these electronic resources, as in all things, common sense, maturity, and above all the quest for holiness establish certain standards of behavior. The guidelines below identify some of these standards to which every seminarian is bound. They are not all-inclusive but instead are meant to illustrate the general principles of this agreement. Certain actions or behavior may still be subject to this agreement even if such actions or behavior are not specifically listed below.

Since seminarians are public persons in the Church, it is important that they act responsibly and in the best interests of the seminary and the Church while online. Although internet activity carries the illusion of being anonymous, seminarians aspiring to the clerical state “are to refrain completely from all those things which are unbecoming to their state,” and “those things which although not unbecoming, are nevertheless” inconsistent with the life of seminarian.¹ This includes their dealings not only by email but also in Facebook posts and pictures, through Twitter accounts, and so forth. Seminarians should know, for instance, that their online remarks about the Church and Church teaching may carry new weight, and should be measured accordingly. In addition, personal information about seminary functions, students, and personnel should not be disclosed online without first discussing it with the seminarian’s formation advisor.

Particular Issues

- 1) Seminary computers should be used in moderation for personal matters, and should always be relinquished to those who are waiting to do academic or seminary work.
- 2) Personal computers using the wireless network must have updated anti-virus software installed.
- 3) Large downloads and high-bandwidth applications should be avoided during times of peak usage (e.g. business hours).
- 4) Peer-to-peer file-sharing applications or services such as BitTorrent are not permitted.
- 5) When communicating with a child or youth using any form of electronic media or an electronic device it is essential that the communication is consistent with Catholic values. It should be respectful to both the child as well as the parent and direct in nature as to avoid any misunderstanding. Always make every attempt to be transparent when communicating with a child or youth by including parents and/or other adults in ministry. Private messages should be avoided when possible.²
- 6) Any attempt to modify, circumvent, or disable the seminary’s firewall or other computer security systems is prohibited.

¹ *Code of Canon Law*, c. 285, §1-2, in *Code of Canon Law: Latin-English Edition* (Washington, DC: Canon Law Society of America, 1998), 91.

² See the norms governing the *Use of Electronic Media & Electronic Devices* §11.1, in the *Archdiocese of St. Louis Code of Ethical Conduct for Clergy, Employees and Volunteers Working with Minors*. January, 2013.

In addition to these general norms, electronic resources may never be used for sinful, illegal, or inappropriate purposes, including, but not limited to:

- 1) Viewing or downloading anything pornographic, obscene, or indecent,
- 2) Using unlicensed software or violating copyright law, including possessing, transmitting, or copying unlicensed intellectual property such as movies, shows, and music,
- 3) Forging another's identity, acquiring or attempting to acquire another's password, attempting to use another's account or revealing another's password,
- 4) Intentional interference with the computer system through "worms", viruses, spamming, or sending inappropriate messages,
- 5) Engaging or participating in threats, harassment, defamatory material, violence, or hate-related sites,
- 6) Engaging or participating in inappropriate chat rooms, forums, or bulletin boards,
- 7) Involvement with anything that is incompatible with the tax-exempt status of the Church, including commercial, political, or fundraising activities or advertisements.

Accountability

As an aid to students using internet access, and to assist them in growing in personal accountability, *Covenant Eyes* software must be installed on every computer, tablet, and data-ready mobile phones if a *Covenant Eyes* application exists for it. This software monitors all internet activity both on Kenrick-Glennon's networks and any network a seminarian uses while enrolled at Kenrick-Glennon. Attempting to circumvent this software is a serious offense and constitutes grounds for dismissal. In addition, each man's individual formation advisor and either the Vice Rector for the College or the Vice Rector for Formation, has the right and the responsibility to monitor and record individual use of electronic resources, either routinely or if a breach of policy is suspected.

The purpose of *Covenant Eyes* is not only to flag objectionable websites but also to gauge the quantity of time that a seminarian spends online. Excessive use of the Internet, even when the content is not morally objectionable, can waste a great deal of time. Ordinarily, therefore, apart from academic requirements and email, a seminarian should exercise prudence in discerning his use of the internet.

Violating these policies has no place in the life of someone striving for holiness. It will result in disciplinary action and carry the possibility of dismissal and, depending on the nature of the offense, criminal and/or civil legal action. If a concern arises the man's formation advisor and either the Vice Rector for Formation or Vice Rector for the College will take the necessary action with due respect to Canon 220³ and Archdiocesan policy.⁴

³ CIC, c. 220: "No one is permitted to harm illegitimately the good reputation which a person possesses nor to injure the right of any person to protect his or her own privacy."

⁴ "Use of Electronic Communications Devices and Applications by School Personnel" promulgated in 2010 by the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Internet Usage Agreement

I understand these policies and agree to abide by them. I will speak to my formation advisor, the Vice Rector for Formation, or the Vice Rector for the College, if any clarification needs to be obtained in applying these policies. I also understand that violating these policies can result in penalties, including dismissal from the seminary. Furthermore, I understand that witnessing any violation of these policies obliges me to bring the matter to my formation advisor, the Vice Rector for Formation or the Vice Rector for the College.

Name

Signature

Date