The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 (HEOA) requires that Creighton University make an annual disclosure to students to inform them of the penalties associated with the illegal distribution of copyrighted materials. Copyrights are a form of intellectual property that protect works of artistic creation such as books, movies, music and software. The owner of a copyright has the exclusive right to distribute the copyrighted work, among other rights. Individuals that choose to illegally share or distribute copyrighted material, whether through a file-sharing system or through another mechanism, open themselves up to the possibility of criminal and civil penalties. These penalties can range from \$750 to \$150,000 per work infringed, depending on the type and intent of the infringement. Courts can also choose to award costs and attorney fees. Willful copyright infringement can also result in imprisonment of up to five years. We encourage all students to think twice before illegally distributing copyrighted material, and to seek non-copyrighted alternative solutions whenever possible. If you have questions about copyright, please contact the Intellectual Resource Management office.