

Online Course Ownership

Mayville State University considers all coursework developed for online courses that do not generate royalties as Mediated Courseware. Thus the ownership of the developed material falls under the constraints outlined SBHE Policy 611.2 section 5.

A. Definitions

1. "Creator": Either an inventor in the context of an Invention, or an Author in the context of a Copyrightable Work.
2. "Institution": The individual colleges and universities and the North Dakota University System.
3. "Mediated Courseware": Teaching aids created and/or deployed electronically. Mediated Courseware may incorporate text, graphics, video, and audio elements. Examples of such materials include, but are not limited to, hypertext modules, simulation software, web sites, and databases containing numbers, images, or text.

B. Mediated Courseware.

1. Self-initiated Mediated Courseware. When employees develop Mediated Courseware without specific direction by the Institution, unless otherwise agreed, the ownership of the courseware shall remain with the employee. Normally, no royalty, rent or other consideration shall be paid to the employee when that Mediated Courseware is used for instruction at the Institution and such Mediated Courseware shall not be used or modified without the consent of the employee. While the Creator is under Institutional employment, the Mediated Courseware shall not be sold, leased, rented or otherwise used in a manner that competes in a substantial way with the for-credit offering of the employee's own Institution unless that transaction has received the approval of the chief academic officer of the Institution. The Institution shall have a perpetual, non-exclusive royalty-free right to use such courseware for archival research purposes. Should approval be granted to offer the course outside of the Institution, the provisions of section 4b of this policy shall apply.
2. Institution-directed Mediated Courseware. When the Institution directs in an employment contract the creation of a specific Mediated Courseware, the resulting Mediated Courseware belongs to the Institution and the Institution shall have the right to revise it and decide who will utilize the Mediated Courseware in instruction. The Institution may specifically agree to share revenues and control rights with the employee.
3. Institutions shall develop procedures for reporting the development of Institution-directed Mediated Courseware to the appropriate administrator at the Institution.

Adopted: Spring 2008

Sponsors: Vice President for Academic Affairs and Faculty Senate