

What You Need To Know About Facebook

The '.edu' access to the Facebook site may give students a false sense of security:

- There are hundreds of thousands of active “.edu” e-mail addresses just in the U.S. and many of them can gain access to your site.
- Some colleges and universities will grant free e-mail addresses to alumni; however, they do not always follow up to check whether the individual is an actual alumni - therefore making it relatively easy to create false “.edu” accounts on Facebook and gain access to the site.
- And – as of September 2006, you don't need a .edu e-mail address, you just need to be invited to join Facebook.
- Students can be stalked because of the detailed and specific information students post on Facebook (phone numbers, addresses, class schedules etc).
- Students are getting into trouble with University administrators for incriminating and inappropriate information or pictures on their Facebook profiles that are violations of school policy or the code of conduct. Remember faculty and university administrators also have “.edu” addresses and an ability and interest in accessing Facebook.
- Students are being turned down by employers for jobs, internships, and even interviews because of the information employers are finding out about students on their Facebook accounts.
- Compromising and inappropriate pictures, statements or other information on student Facebook accounts can hurt students' chances to gain (or even be considered for) employment. Employers take the images that students are portraying on Facebook very seriously as a reflection of personal character.

Helpful Hints to Stay Safe and Be Prepared...

- Evaluate your Facebook account and postings - how do you feel about your employers seeing what you have posted? How about your parents or grandparents?
- Do not post private information such as cell or home phone numbers, addresses, class schedule, social plans etc.
- Utilize the “privacy” settings on your Facebook account - you can adjust your privacy settings to control who has access to your personal information.
- Google yourself to see how your name and identity is being used.
- Be prepared to answer questions about your Facebook account in job interviews. It has become common for interviewers to ask applicants “Are you on Facebook?” and “What is on your Facebook profile?” BE PREPARED to either decline the questions or answer honestly because employers will most likely look at your Facebook account themselves...or already have.

Learn more by visiting Facebook's page on privacy and frequently asked questions at: <http://www.facebook.com/policy.php>

Information provided by DU's Division of Student Life. Adapted from “What you need to know about Facebook,” by Kathleen McCabe, Director of Peer Education at Creighton University