

## **WE CARE SAFETY TIPS FOR ON-LINE SOCIAL NETWORKING**

The internet is very public, world wide. If you use on-line social networks, here are some questions to ask yourself:

1. Did I set my privacy setting to help control who can look at my profile, my information and photos? You can limit access somewhat but not completely, and you have no control over what someone else may share.
2. How much information do I want people who I don't know to know about me? If I give them my cell phone number, address, email, class schedule, a list of possessions (such as my CD collection) how might they use it? With whom will they share it? Not everyone will respect my person or physical space.
3. Would I post this material on a roadside billboard or to the exterior of the door to my residence?
4. Is the image I'm projecting by my materials and photos the one I want my current and future friends to know me by? What does my profile say to potential faculty members/advisors? Future graduate school/internship interviewers? Potential employers? Neighbors? Family? Parents? Which doors am I opening? Which am I closing?
5. What if I change my mind about what I post? For instance, what if I want to remove something I posted as a joke or to make a point? Have I read the social networking site's privacy and caching statements? Removing material from network caches can be difficult. Posted material remains accessible on the internet until you've completed the prescribed process for removing information from the caching technology of one or multiple (potentially unknown) search engines.
6. Have I asked permission to post someone else's image or information? Am I infringing on their privacy? Could I be hurting someone? Could I be subject to libel suits? Am I violating network use policy? Could I be subject to a judiciary hearing?
7. Does my equipment have spyware and virus protections installed? Many social networking sites collect profile information to SPAM you. Others contain links that can infect your equipment with viruses that potentially can destroy data and infect others with whom you communicate. Remember to backup your work on an external source in case of destructive attacks.

ALSO SEE [ON-LINE SOCIAL NETWORKING GUIDE AND RELATED RESOURCES](#)