



Section Number _____ Section Header: _____
Subject: E-mail Policy Effective Date: March 2003
(Revised January 2009)
Responsible Office: Department of Information Technology

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INTRODUCTION

New Jersey City University (NJCU) acknowledges an increasing need for efficient communications with its students, faculty, and staff. This policy was established to enable official E-mail communications with students, faculty, and staff.

PURPOSE

Electronic Mail (E-mail) is recognized as a very effective way to disseminate information of importance, relevance and interest to members of the University and larger, global community in a timely manner. It is therefore important to define the University's policy on E-mail and offer appropriate procedures on the use of this technology. This document serves as the University's policy on E-mail and distribution lists, as well as appropriate procedures and guidelines for their use.

SCOPE

This information is for all members of the University who are granted an official NJCU E-mail account. In addition to general policy and procedures that apply to all members, specific responsibilities and procedures are provided for both employees and students.

DEFINITIONS

E-mail – Electronically delivered messages addressed to specific E-mail account holders.

E-mail Account – A username and password assigned to a user that allows access to E-mail services.

Listserv – Software that creates E-mail distribution lists.

E-mail Server – A server-class computer that has been configured to accept and forward E-mail messages on behalf of a registered account holder (the sender), and to receive and deliver messages to members registered to a server (the receiver).

Local E-mail Client – Software installed on a personal desktop or notebook computer. This software establishes a link to and communicates with the E-mail Server on behalf of the E-mail account holder. The local client downloads messages from the E-mail server to the computer where the application is running. This type client restricts a user to read new and access old E-

mail from a single computer. Example local clients are Microsoft Outlook, Qualcomm Eudora, Netscape Messenger, and Mozilla Thunderbird.

Web E-mail Client – Software installed on a server-class computer that establishes a link to and communicates with the E-mail Server on behalf of the E-mail account holder. However, rather than downloading to the user’s local computer, E-mail is transferred to the web client server from the E-mail server. This type client enables the user to retrieve new and access old E-mail from any computer with a browser and internet connection. Example web clients are MSN Hotmail, Yahoo!Mail, and Google Mail. The university provides its own, branded web client, called *GotMail?*.

Distribution List A collection of recipients with a specific interest in common, or a sub-group of a larger community. Examples of NJCU distribution lists are Faculty, Staff, and Students.

Netiquette – A combination of two words: Network and Etiquette. As with any interaction between two or more people, there are formal and information protocols that are followed to facilitate communications. These protocols are called “etiquette”. As use of the Internet and E-mail became universal, protocols for polite interaction over this medium were also developed. The term netiquette is used to describe these new protocols for electronic communication.

Spam – Unsolicited E-mail advertising for a wide range of legal and illegal products. In many cases spam is considered a form of free speech which is protected under the first amendment, even if some recipients find a message offensive. Some spam is a veiled attempt at acquiring personal information such as a bank account number or a password. This form of spam is known as “phishing”. Some spam may also be veiled attempts at spreading viruses and other harmful or annoying programs, generally known as malware.

POLICY

Electronic Mail (E-mail) is an official means of communication at New Jersey City University. This does not preclude the use of other methods of communication.

Official NJCU E-mail accounts are granted to all members of the University community and are active for the duration of the member’s relationship with the University.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND GUIDELINES

The following responsibilities and guidelines apply to all users of NJCU E-mail services and utilities:

- To maintain the security and integrity of the E-mail system, E-mail account holders must change their temporary account passwords as soon as possible after notification that the account has been created. The E-mail account holder should also periodically change his/her account password.
- E-mail account holders should follow best practice standards for creating highly secure passwords.
- The E-mail account holder is responsible for the general security of the account and its information.
- E-mail accounts and passwords are not to be shared under any circumstances.
- The E-mail account holder is responsible for checking NJCU E-mail regularly, preferably daily, and responding appropriately to messages.
- All those assigned an official University E-mail account are responsible for the information and attachments sent to them.
- E-mail should be answered promptly and courteously.
- E-mail attachments should not exceed 1 MB to conserve disk storage.
- Account holders using a local E-mail client are responsible for maintaining backups of their E-mail that have been downloaded to their computer(s).
- Commercial use of NJCU E-mail accounts is not permitted.
- NJCU E-mail accounts are not to be used to harass or intimidate others.
- NJCU E-mail accounts are not to be used to instigate or promote chain mail.
- NJCU E-mail accounts are not to be used to distribute spam.
- NJCU E-mail accounts are not to be used to distribute harmful programs (viruses, worms, and other malware).
- E-mail accounts are not to be used to distribute copyrighted materials without permission of the owner.
- It is highly recommended that E-mail account holders enable the NJCU Spam filter for their account to avoid receiving unsolicited messages.
- All E-mail account holders should use proper netiquette when sending messages.
- Inappropriate use of NJCU E-mail should be reported to the IT department at technology@njcu.edu.

NOTE: All E-mail stored on University computers and servers may be requested as part of a litigation process known as e-Discovery or, in some cases, through the Freedom of Information Act. Once notified that an account is being held for litigation, the account holder must not delete or tamper with E-mail or E-mail contents.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES AND GUIDELINES

Employee Responsibilities

- NJCU E-mail is to be used for University business and academic-related communications. Personal interactions should be kept to a minimum.

- Employees should check for NJCU messages frequently and consistently as E-mail is considered an official means of communication.
- Employees must retain E-mail messages consistent with the [State of New Jersey - Managing Electronic Mail: Guidelines and Best Practices](#)
- All use of E-mail, including use for sensitive or confidential information, will be consistent with local, state, and federal legislation, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).
- Employees should set an “out-of-the-office” notice when they will not be able to respond to NJCU E-mail messages for an extended period of time (e.g., vacation, conferences, etc.).
- When sending to a distribution list, E-mail messages should be brief and to the point.

Student Responsibilities

- Students should check for NJCU messages frequently and consistently as E-mail is considered an official means of communication and in order to stay current with time-critical and time-sensitive University announcements.
- Students may re-direct (auto-forward) NJCU E-mail to an external E-mail address and are fully responsible for checking the third-party E-mail account for NJCU communications.

IT Responsibilities

- The Department of Information Technology (IT) is responsible for maintaining E-mail services and for creating and removing accounts.

Note: E-mail accounts adhere to a specific naming convention. Account names are created as follows: first initial, last name (no spaces) – up to 12 characters. For example:

John Doe = JDOE

A number is added to the end of the account name if it is a “common” last name and first initial combination. The account password will be given at the time of account distribution.

- IT is responsible for maintaining the server-based E-mail anti-virus and anti-spam services.
- New E-mail is held on the University server for 30 days or until downloaded or transferred to the user’s computer or the web client server.
- IT will create and manage listserv distribution lists as required.
- IT will ensure adequate storage to accommodate the maximum quota of all account holders.

E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LISTS

NJCU provides system services for the mass distribution of announcements and notices and as a tool to promote discussion and collaboration through forum-like interaction. This system service is known as a Listserv. Distribution lists are a viable tool to communicate information to a wide body of E-mail users. IT offers several permanent lists and many adhoc lists for this purpose.

Students List (students@njcu.edu)

This list is provided as a means to distribute announcements and notifications to all active students of the University.

- All student E-mail addresses are automatically subscribed to this list by IT
- Authorization to post to this list is determined by the Vice President for Student Affairs
- No attachments should be sent to this list

Staff List (staff@njcu.edu)

This list is provided as a means to distribute announcements and notifications to all active employees of the University.

- All faculty and staff E-mail addresses are automatically subscribed to this list.
- Only designated individuals are authorized to send E-mail messages to this list.
- This list is to be utilized only for University business and academic-related topics. Examples of appropriate uses of the STAFF list include, but are not limited to:

- University Announcements
(e.g., Emergency, Meetings, Events, Conferences, Training, etc.)
- Technology/Help Desk Notifications
- Human Resources Notifications
- Public Safety Notices

Examples of inappropriate uses of the STAFF list include, but are not limited to:

- Personal Solicitations
- Religious & Political Views
- Inaccurate Computer Virus Notices

NOTE: E-mail sent to a list should not be electronically recalled by NJCU E-mail account holders. Attempting to do so may generate mass error notifications to all members of the list and disrupt the normal processing of E-mail.

Community List (njcu-community@njcu.edu)

This list is designated to provide an open forum for discussion on a wide range of topics and for announcements of a more personal nature (e.g., birth & death announcements, condo rentals, etc.).

- Subscription to this list is voluntary and available to all members of the NJCU community.
- If the list is no longer of interest, each member has the ability to 'unsubscribe' from the list. Procedures for subscribing and unsubscribing to this list are available at: http://www.njcu.edu/dept/it/documents/support/NJCU-Community_Help.pdf

Adhoc Lists

Other lists may be created upon request. All requests for a new Listserv distribution list should be addressed to the IT Help Desk at helpdesk@njcu.edu

- All adhoc lists require a designated list owner who is a member of the list
- Members of an adhoc list are added and removed by the designated owner of the list

PROCEDURES

Acquiring an E-mail Account

Student Accounts

Student NJCU E-mail accounts are granted to all registered students of the University prior to their first semester and are retained for the duration of the student's active relationship with the University. Students receive notification of their E-mail account and password information via the post office mail.

While a student may forward messages sent to their NJCU E-mail account to a third-party E-mail address (e.g., HotMail®, Gmail®, Yahoo! Mail®, etc.), the student's NJCU E-mail account remains the official delivery address for NJCU electronic communications. NJCU is not responsible for E-mail handling, delivery, and access to a forwarded E-mail address.

Employee Accounts

The Office of Human Resources submits a request for a faculty/staff E-mail accounts to the IT Help Desk. IT creates the account and forwards the information to the requestor. This account will remain with the individual until leaving the University's employment.

Special Purpose E-mail Accounts

The University recognizes the need for special purpose E-mail accounts such as generic department accounts. These accounts are created by request and must be approved by the departmental manager. Requests of this nature should be directed to the IT Help Desk at helpdesk@njcu.edu

Accessing E-mail

Access to NJCU E-mail is available from:

- Any computer connected to the Internet on- or off-campus via a local E-mail client.
- The Student Access Center “kiosks” distributed throughout the campus, which are configured to connect to the University web-based E-mail client, *GotMail?*.
- Any computer connected to the Internet on- or off-campus via a web-based E-mail client. NJCU offers the GotMail? web client, but any web-based client that allows access to third-party POP/SMTP services can be used.

Specific instructions for accessing E-mail using any of the above methods are available at: <http://www.njcu.edu/dept/it/support.html#email>

Spam Blocking

IT provides a spam blocker application that checks messages for spam as they are received by the E-mail server. IT strongly recommends that users enable this feature on their accounts. Access to this service is via the *GotMail?* login page at: <https://gotmail.njcu.edu>

Once enabled, all E-mail messages addressed to the account are scanned and any messages suspected of being spam will be moved to a special quarantine queue on the E-mail server and not delivered to the user. The application may identify the contents of a message as spam (a “false positive”). It is therefore imperative that users who enable spam blocking check the quarantine queue for these false positives and release them for delivery, and to manage the provided Allow and Block lists.

Specific Instructions for managing the spam quarantine queue are available at: http://www.njcu.edu/dept/it/pmas_announcement.html

Forwarding E-mail

Each E-mail account can be set by the owner to forward messages to another E-mail account. This service is provided through the “Access E-mail Utilities” link on the *GotMail?* login page.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The E-mail policy will be assessed annually using the following quantifiable measures:

- E-mail and *GotMail?* server availability is maintained above 98%
- Number of users who subscribe to spam blocker application
- Number of departments who utilize NJCU E-mail to communicate with students
- Results of annual E-mail satisfaction survey

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [NJCU - Official University Communications Policy](#)
- [NJCU - E-mail Security Policy and Guidelines](#)
- [NJCU - Responsible Use of Computing Resources](#)
- [NJCU - Notification of Student Rights Under FERPA](#)
- [State of New Jersey - Managing Electronic Mail: Guidelines and Best Practices](#)

CONTACT

This policy is managed by:

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| University Department: | Information Technology |
| Location: | Rossey Hall, Room 58 |
| Telephone: | (201) 200-3350 |
| Facsimile: | (201) 200-2332 |
| E-mail: | technology@njcu.edu |