

**SECTION: Business Affairs/Information Services**  
**SUBJECT: Guidelines for Internet Filtering**

**ISSUED BY:** Information Services  
**REPLACES:**  
**APPROVED BY:** President's Cabinet  
**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 8, 1998

Guidelines for Internet Filtering

The Asbury College *Handbook for Community Life* contains ten 'Foundational Principles of Community Life.' From those principles, four can serve as guidelines when making decisions regarding the filtering of Internet sites/categories:

1. Asbury College is committed to following biblical mandates for living.
2. Asbury College is committed to a lifestyle characterized by integrity.
3. Asbury College is a learning community.
4. Asbury College is a disciplined community.

In light of these four principles, the following is used as a guideline for making decisions regarding Internet filtering:

The Internet is a tool for research for both academic assignments and personal interests; therefore, sites which provide valuable information should be accessible from the Internet server connections that the college provides. This will inevitably include some topics which may be unpopular for Asbury's campus. Providing access to material does not indicate that the college is giving implicit approval of that material. In making filtering decisions, a key element will be to make a distinction between Internet categories/sites that may **represent** behavior or views that we do not condone and categories/sites which allow the user to **participate** in behavior that we not condone. Categories/sites which allow the user to participate in behavior deemed inappropriate by the college will be subject to filtering. Categories/sites which will be filtered under these current guidelines will include:

- direct participation in gambling activities
- viewing of sexually explicit materials
- information on sexual-related adult entertainment
- promotion of illegal activities
- promotion of activities which may not be illegal but are destructive to other persons
- sites which are "tasteless" in terms of being very offensive to the viewer and having no positive or useful value what-so-ever

Any filtering system will create certain access problems and the college understands that the process will never be perfect. In purchasing filtering services from an outside vendor, it is recognized that access may be provided to some material that is objectionable. In other cases, access may be denied

June 1999

to some material that is not objectionable. In such cases, the college Information Services staff has the ability to unfilter specific sites within pre-defined filtered categories. Questions regarding this should be sent to Information Services through e-mail address "Filter for Internet" which is included on the e-mail global address listing.

In light of the college guidelines established for filtering of the Internet, it is recommended that the following categories currently being filtered be removed from filtering:

- Alcohol
- Cult/New Age
- Drugs
- Militancy
- Personals/Dating
- Violence
- Weapons

It is recommended that the following categories continue to be filtered:

- Adult Entertainment
- Alternative Journals
- Gambling
- Hacking
- Illegal
- Pornography
- Sexuality/Lifestyles
- Tasteless