



## Appropriate Use of Electronic Personnel and Payroll Records

### No. 4082

**Policy Effective Date:**  
9/8/1999

**Last Revision Date:**  
6/16/2020

**Policy Owner:**  
Bryan Garey

**Policy Author:** (*Contact Person*)  
Ellen Banks

**Affected Parties:**  
Faculty  
Staff

- 1.0 Purpose
- 2.0 Policy
- 3.0 Procedures
- 4.0 Definitions
- 5.0 References
- 6.0 Approval and Revisions

### 1.0 Purpose

The intent of this policy is to define appropriate access to the Human Resources Information System (HRIS) and to set forth guidelines to safeguard the use and maintenance of personnel and payroll information.

### 2.0 Policy

University communication and computing resources are used to support the educational, research, and public service missions of the institution. Activities involving these resources must be in accord with the university honor codes, employee handbooks, the Student Code of Conduct, and relevant local, state, federal and international laws and regulations.

For use to be acceptable it must demonstrate consideration for:

- the rights of others to privacy;
  - intellectual property rights (e.g., as reflected in licenses and copyrights);
  - ownership of data;
  - system access and security designed to limit access; and
  - individuals' rights to be free of intimidation, harassment, and unwarranted annoyance.
1. Employees must be authorized by their department head or documented designee and Human Resources for access to personnel and payroll data on the Human Resources Information System (HRIS). Only employees who need direct access to personnel and payroll data in order to perform specific job responsibilities should be given this authorization. Access should be limited to the departmental data, information, forms, and reports required to perform the duties of the job. Human Resources will provide HRIS training to new users as part of the authorization process.
  2. With the exception of requests for employment references, requests for personnel-related information from an organization or individual not associated with Virginia Tech must be referred to Human Resources. Address and phone information indicated as "confidential" on the biographical form in Banner cannot be released to individuals or organizations outside of the university.
  3. Employees having access to personnel and payroll data must only use this information for job-related purposes-not for personal use by others or themselves. Sensitive data may be shared only with employees within their own department who need the information to perform their job responsibilities. [Policy 7100, Administrative Data Management and Access Policy](#), defines data users as individuals who access university data in order to perform their assigned duties or to fulfill their role in the university community. All data users must sign a statement indicating their understanding of the level of access provided and their responsibility to likewise maintain the inherent privacy, accessibility, and integrity of the data they are provided.



Information related to gaining access to HRIS can be found in the [Application Support section](#).

4. In accordance with [Policy 3350, Charter for the Office of Audit, Risk, and Compliance](#), appropriate staff members of Internal Audit may have unrestricted access to all university departments, records, reports, activities, property, and personnel as necessary to discharge their audit responsibilities.
5. The university regards any violation of this policy as a serious offense. Violators of this policy are subject to disciplinary action as prescribed in the undergraduate and graduate honor codes, the Student Code of Conduct, and employee handbooks.

## 2.1 Authorized Users

All employees requesting access to systems with personnel or payroll records must complete and sign a statement certifying they have read [Policy 4082, Appropriate Use of Electronic Personnel and Payroll Records](#), and [Policy 7000, Acceptable Use of Computer and Communication Systems](#), and that they agree to protect their access privileges accordingly. They must then obtain appropriate signature approval from the department head (or if for more than one department within a senior management area, appropriate dean or vice president signature approval). No one may approve his or her own authorization; approval should always be at the next level of management. The required online form can be found on the Virginia Tech's [computing website](#).

**Department representatives** will have access to limited non-sensitive data for all university employees to assist them with employment-related tasks. This includes: an employee's name, identification number, department name and number, position number, employment dates, funding, and accumulated wage hours. Also included are data about completion date of I-9 and visa status. Authorized departmental representatives can view salary information for employees only within their department.

**Department head approval** is required for access to the department data. Approval by deans/vice presidents or designees is required for access to one or more departments within a senior management area.

**Senior management executives** may have access to personnel and payroll data for all units reporting to them.

**Access to university-wide data** must be approved by the appropriate senior-level management and the Associate Vice President for Human Resources or documented designee.

Human Resources will conduct an audit of all departmental and university-wide access on an annual basis. As a part of the audit, senior-level management will indicate if individuals continue to require access based on their current job duties. Human Resources will appropriately update individual's access based on the results of the audit.

## 3.0 Procedures

1. All personnel and payroll information must be stored in a secure, confidential environment.
2. Owners of a PID or other access ID are accountable for its use. It is the ID owner's responsibility to protect the integrity of accessible systems and to preserve the confidentiality of accessible information.
3. Passwords should never be displayed, printed or otherwise recorded in an unsecure manner.
4. Electronic IDs and passwords that provide access to HRIS must not be shared with other individuals. The system provides audit trails of many electronic transactions and will record the ID used to enter or change data,



thus making the owner of the ID accountable for any actions entered on the ID. Therefore, workstations should always be attended while still connected to any HRIS system. This includes Banner HR, the HR web reports, and the leave system or any administrative information systems where data integrity or confidentiality may be compromised.

5. Anyone who has reason to suspect a breach of established security policy or procedure should promptly report it to the appropriate dean/vice president or designee, director, or department head and to the Identity Management Services (IMS) office.

### **3.1 Termination of Access**

#### **3.1.1 Process for Terminating System Access**

Department heads at Virginia Tech authorize employees to have IDs on the various computer systems during employment; therefore, the department head is accountable for ensuring that employee access is blocked in situations where there are job changes, separations or transfers. To inactivate system access, IMS uses a daily report of personnel actions (separations, transfers, promotions, and demotions) that have been entered on Banner to determine which IDs need to have system access terminated. Timely processing of personnel actions assures timely termination of systems access.

#### **3.1.2 Departmental Ability to Access an Employee's ID**

A department head or designee may need immediate access to information under an employee's ID when the employee is separated unexpectedly or absent for a long period of time (i.e., handling payroll in a small department where there is no backup).

The department head or designee should send an e-mail message to [imsbann@vt.edu](mailto:imsbann@vt.edu) listing systems to which the employee has access and request the IDs be set for access by an alternate ID or individual. For emergency situations, a phone call should be made to IMS (231-4245) after sending the email to ensure immediate action.

#### **3.1.3 Departmental Ability to Block an Employee's ID**

A department head or designee may need to block an employee from using their ID for the following reasons:

- when an employee is separated unexpectedly;
- when an employee is absent over a long period of time;
- when allowing an employee continued access may jeopardize an investigation of alleged wrongdoing or otherwise constitute negligence on the part of the university; or
- when an employee is a threat to the workplace.

The department head should send an e-mail message to [imsbann@vt.edu](mailto:imsbann@vt.edu) listing systems to which the employee has access and request that the ID(s) be terminated by a certain date. In these cases, the ID is considered university property. For emergency situations, a phone call should be made to IMS (231-4245) after sending the email to ensure immediate action.



## 4.0 Definitions

**Data Users:** individuals who access university data in order to perform their assigned duties or to fulfill their role in the university community.

**Human Resources Information System (HRIS):** is managed by HR Applications and is the component of the university's Banner enterprise system which contains employee information and is used to process/record employee transactions and benefits. Additionally it allows the university to administer budgets, process payroll and accommodate unique policies and processes.

**ID:** Identification to access computer systems at Virginia Tech. The ID is assigned to an employee by Identity Management Services. ID, PID, and Oracle ID are interchangeable in this policy.

## 5.0 References

Application Support

<https://www.hr.vt.edu/hiring-employee-transactions/applications-support.html>

Faculty Handbook

<https://faculty.vt.edu/faculty-handbook.html>

[Student Code of Conduct](#)

Policy 7000, Acceptable Use of Computer and Communication Systems

<http://www.policies.vt.edu/7000.pdf>

Policy 7100, Administrative Data Management and Access Policy

<http://www.policies.vt.edu/7010.pdf>

Computing @ Virginia Tech

<https://vt4help.service-now.com/sp>

## 6.0 Approval and Revisions

Approved September 8, 1999, by Assistant Vice President for Personnel, Linda Woodard.

October 10, 2001: Technical corrections to update policy links and name change for the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Human Resource Management (formerly Department of Personnel and Training).

September 7, 2006: Technical revisions to update references

1. delete reference to obsolete Policy 2020: Policy on Protecting Electronic Access Privileges;
2. update reference to former Policy 2005 to current Policy 7100: Administrative Data Management and Access Policy;
3. update reference to former Policy 2015 to current Policy 7000: Acceptable use of Computer and Communication Systems;
4. Update to "Human Resources" all references to "Personnel Services."



## Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

- **Revision 1**  
May 13, 2008: Updates to position titles and/or responsibilities due to university restructuring.
- **Revision 2**  
Technical Corrections - updates to department titles and contact information.  
Approved December 2, 2009 by Vice President for Administrative Services, Sherwood G. Wilson.
- **Revision 3**  
Technical corrections to processes, references and definition quoted from reference.  
Approved July 25, 2013 by Vice President for Administration, Sherwood G. Wilson.
- **Revision 4**
  - Technical Corrections – updates to form and site names.
  - Section 3.1.1 Process for Terminating Systems Access, removed information related to individual access for Email/Modem Pool – modem pool access is no longer offered.Approved October 5, 2015 by Vice President for Administration, Sherwood G. Wilson.
- **Revision 5**  
Technical update of Section 2.0 to reference Student Code of Conduct which replaced the retired Hokie Handbook.  
Approved June 16, 2020 by Kim O'Rourke, Vice President for Policy and Governance.