

Purpose

- Guide the deployment of all ACOM wireless networks to ensure reliable, compatible, and secure operation.
- Protect the security of ACOM's information resources and electronic communications.
- Arbitrate possible interference in the FCC unlicensed radio frequency spectrum used by wireless devices.

Scope

This policy applies to all uses of Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) technologies at all physical locations on the Dothan campus at the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine, both inside buildings and in outdoor areas, and including student residence halls. Exceptions may only be granted by the Director of Information Systems - ACOM. It does not apply to cellular wireless technology.

All ACOM information technology policies apply to the use of ACOM's wireless networks, as do all other applicable ACOM policies and procedures and all federal, state, and local laws.

Policy**Authority, Standards, and Access**

The Director of Information Systems - ACOM or designee is responsible for establishing and enforcing all WLAN technology standards. Any WLAN installation or use that varies from this standard must be approved by the DIS-ACOM.

ACOM Information Systems Department will be the sole provider of design, specification, installation, operation, maintenance, and management services for all wireless Access Points. Students may not install or operate WLAN Access Points in the residence halls.

Only ACOM faculty, staff, students, and authorized visitors may use the ACOM WLAN; exceptions must be authorized by the DIS-ACOM or designee. All College WLANs must be configured according to security standards established by the DIS-ACOM. The Office of Information Systems will be responsible for managing the security of the ACOM WLAN. All WLAN communications must be encrypted. All wireless devices using the ACOM WLAN must be registered with Information Systems.

Interference

WLANs often operate in unlicensed frequency bands shared with other wireless devices that may disrupt the operation of the ACOM wireless network. To assure the highest level of service to WLAN clients, the use of devices in the same frequency range as the ACOM WLAN is discouraged. In cases of significant interference problems, the owner of the interfering device may be required to cease its operation. In cases where the interfering device is being used for a specific teaching or research application, IS will work with faculty to mitigate the interference and accommodate the device without disrupting the ACOM WLAN. In the event that both cannot operate without interference, use for specific teaching or research applications will take precedence over the general access WLAN. The Director of Information Systems - ACOM has the authority to require cessation of unauthorized use of wireless devices.

Definitions

Access Point: A network device that serves as a communications "hub" for wireless nodes, typically providing a connection to the wired LAN and therefore transporting data between the wireless and wired networks.

Wireless node: A device, such as a notebook computer or handheld PDA, equipped with wireless data communications capability.

WLAN: "Wireless Local Area Network" - a wireless network within a limited area consisting of one or more wireless Access Points that provide network connectivity for wireless nodes. In essence, a WLAN provides the functionality of a wired LAN without the physical constraints of the wire.

Questions

Questions regarding this policy should be sent to Director of Information Systems – ACOM at support@acom.edu.