



# Course sharing websites

Course-sharing platforms such as CourseHero and Studocu allow students to upload and share course-related materials which can then be accessed by others. This can include lecture notes and slides, exam papers and course learning content. These commercial websites often provide incentives like rewards and complimentary access to encourage students to contribute content.

Posting UTS course materials online without permission is an infringement of the University copyright, and may have legal consequences and be a violation of [UTS Student Rules](#).

## Takedown requests

To remove UTS content from these websites, lodge a copyright infringement claim to the content provider and ask for the material to be removed. The terms of use for these websites should have information on how to claim an infringement, this is normally provided by a takedown notice form.

If the content provider is an American company the claim should be labelled as a DMCA notice (under the [Digital Millennium Copyright Act](#)).

If there is no takedown form, the following information should be provided when requesting a takedown:

1. Sufficient information to identify the copyright work in question or a list of works  
e.g. lecture notes from Introduction to Mineral Processing, dated 19 August 2024
2. Information to locate the copyright work, including its URL
3. Your contact information, including name and email address
4. A statement that that you did not authorise this upload and you are the creator of the work and that you are authorised to act on behalf of the owner with the exclusive right to the identified work

CourseHero also has another feature called Pinpoint, that allows you to search their site and add files to be removed to an online cart, with no apparent limit on the number of files.

To use this feature, a request must be made with CourseHero. Simply send an email to [dmca@learneo.com](mailto:dmca@learneo.com) with your university email address and let them that are writing to request access to the Pinpoint feature. In your email mention that you are authorised to request removal of infringing IP material on behalf of the University. Also provide your job title and institution.

## Guidelines to prevent the posting of UTS materials on course sharing websites

Students should be aware of the ethical and legal uses of course materials and other copyrighted works. The following are some suggestions on how you help prevent students from posting course materials on course sharing websites:

1. **Use UTS branding**  
Make sure UTS branding is on all materials (PDFs, Word documents, PPTs).  
Whilst this won't stop students from uploading to course-sharing websites, it will make it easier to request a takedown.
2. **Protect your work with the copyright symbol**  
Add the copyright symbol (©) on your materials along with your name/University of Technology Sydney and the date they were created. You can also choose to include a more detailed statement on what students can and cannot do with your materials.

For example: © John Smith (University of Technology Sydney) 2025.

**3. Apply CourseHero phrase to UTS documents**

Using the phrase below on course materials owned by UTS will prevent them from being uploaded to CourseHero. This method has been tested and proven effective. It has been suggested to make the statement invisible to students i.e. by using white font on a white background.

This content is protected and may not be shared, uploaded, or distributed

**4. Put students on notice**

This can be done by adding statements within Canvas, including Course Outline

Example statements that could be used within Canvas:

The materials provided on Canvas are protected by copyright and intended for personal educational and research use by students enrolled in this course. Sharing these materials externally or on websites such as CourseHero is not permitted, as it may lead to copyright infringement and violation of [UTS Student Rules](#).

Or

Students are reminded that all materials created by UTS, including lecture notes, slides, course outlines, assignments, and other educational resources, are protected by copyright and can only be used for education and research purposes.

Unauthorised uploading or sharing of these materials on course-sharing websites (i.e. CourseHero, Studocu) or any other platform without explicit permission, constitutes as a copyright infringement. In addition, downloading course content from these websites and presenting it as your own constitutes as plagiarism. Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's work or ideas as your own and is a serious breach of ethics at UTS.

**5. Educate students**

Students can be referred to the [Copyright Advice for Students](#) webpage to provide an overview of what they can copy.

## Need help?

Contact Copyright Lead at [copyright@uts.edu.au](mailto:copyright@uts.edu.au)