

Dear UC Riverside Student,

We are writing to alert you to an emerging trend by unscrupulous companies of soliciting students to sell their class notes. Notehall.com and other similar companies have been soliciting students by email, sometimes giving the false impression that they are affiliated or endorsed by the University and “hiring” students to post their class notes online and to promote the availability of the notes to their classmates through iLearn. **Please be advised that selling of class notes without the permission of the faculty member and posting the availability of notes for sale on iLearn are both violations of University policy.** Specifically, *University of California Policies Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations and Students*, sections 102.23 Selling, Preparing, or Distributing for any Commercial Purpose Course Lecture Notes or Video or Audio Recordings and 102.05 Theft or Abuse of University Computers and Other University Electronic Resources. We encourage you to review the full text of each of these policies at the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity Programs webpage <http://conduct.ucr.edu/learnPolicies/Pages/StandardsofConduct.aspx>.

Disciplinary action for violating campus policies may include disciplinary probation, suspension, or dismissal, which may have serious effects on your academic career. The unauthorized sale of classroom notes is also a violation of state law (Cal. Educ. Code, section 66450) and may be associated with civil penalties of up to \$25,000 depending on the number of offenses. It may also constitute copyright infringement subject to legal action.

Note-taking can be a critical requirement of a course. Selling or buying of notes short circuits this critical requirement and vehicle for learning. Taking one's own notes reflects a student's ability to identify, synthesize, interpret, record and organize information shared through lecture. This skill is often part of what is evaluated by the instructor.

There is long standing research that shows that taking your own notes contributes to your academic success. The research shows that note-taking combined with critical thinking facilitates retention. Better retention results in better performance on examinations. A good readable summary of the research on the benefits of taking and reviewing notes can be found online at <http://www.learn2study.org/teachers/notes.htm>.

If you have any questions about the information conveyed here, please do not hesitate to contact us. We wish you the best for a successful quarter!

James W Sandoval
Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs
2108 Hinderaker Hall
james.sandoval@ucr.edu
(951) 827-4641

Susan Allen Ortega
Assistant Vice Chancellor
and Dean of Students
susan.allenortega@ucr.edu
(951) 827-6095