

POLICY CONCEPT FORM

Name and UO Title/Affiliation:	Leo Howell, Chief Information Security Officer
Policy Title/# (if applicable):	Data Classification / IV.06.02
Submitted on Behalf Of:	Jessie Minton, CIO
Responsible Executive Officer:	Provost

SELECT ONE: ☐ New Policy ☒ Revision ☐ Repeal

Click the box to select

HAS THE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL REVIEWED THIS CONCEPT: ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, which attorney(s): Bryan Dearing

GENERAL SUBJECT MATTER

Include the policy name and number of any existing policies associated with this concept.

Data Classification Policy / IV.06.02

RELATED STATUTES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES, ETC.

List known statutes, regulations, policies (including unit level policies), or similar related to or impacted by the concept. Include hyperlinks where possible, excerpts when practical (e.g. a short statute), or attachments if necessary. Examples: statute that negates the need for or requires updates to an existing policy; unit level policy(ies) proposed for University-wide enactment; or existing policies used in a new, merged and updated policy.

Minimum Security Procedure for Devices with Public or Internal Information – defines how to protect devices with data classified as Public or Internal.

<https://it.uoregon.edu/system/files/Minimum%20Security%20Procedure%20for%20Devices%20with%20Public%20or%20Internal%20Information.pdf>

Minimum Security Procedure for Devices with Sensitive Information - defines how to protect devices with data classified as Sensitive.

<https://it.uoregon.edu/system/files/Minimum%20Security%20Procedure%20for%20Devices%20with%20Sensitive%20Information.pdf>

STATEMENT OF NEED

What does this concept accomplish and why is it necessary?

The current Data Classification Policy is being expanded to become the Information Asset Classification and Management Policy (IACMP). The IACMP expands the classification criteria from focusing on data confidentiality (sensitivity) to also include data integrity and availability. This provides better alignment with university needs and industry best practices to protect data confidentiality, integrity and availability (CIA). The IACMP also includes classification of devices that process, store or transmit data. It simplifies the current classification policy by reducing the number of levels from 4 to 3 – “Public, Internal, Sensitive-Regulated, Sensitive-Unregulated” to “Low Risk (green), Moderate Risk (amber), and High Risk (red). Finally, the policy expands the responsibilities of data stewards accountable for ensuring security of university data and compliance with legal requirements.

The new policy will provide a better foundation for the development of an overall university Data Security Framework (DSF) – see DSF Overview Document attached. This framework will consist of this policy, as well as: 1) Data Security Classification Table – provides a listing of university data types and their classifications as well as responsible Data Trustees, Data Stewards and Data Custodians; 2) Minimum Security Controls for Protecting Data and Systems by Classification - standards for administrative and technical requirements to protect University Data.

AFFECTED PARTIES

Who is impacted by this change, and how?

All University users

CONSULTED STAKEHOLDERS

Which offices/departments have reviewed your concept and are they confirmed as supportive? (Please do not provide a list of every individual consulted. Remain focused on stakeholders (e.g. ASUO, Office of the Provost, Registrar, Title IX Coordinator, etc.).)

Name	Office	Date
Julia Pomerenk	University Registrar	3/4/2019
Elaine Seyman	Law School Registrar	3/20/2019
Kaia Rogers, Sonia Potter	Human Resource	3/20/2019
Trisha Burnett	Internal Audit	3/27/2019

Adriene Lim, Helen Chu	University Libraries	3/22/2019
Wendy Machalicek	Special Education and Clinical Sciences	3/22/2019
Mike Andreasen	University Advancement	4/2/2019
Lalla Pudewell	HEDCO Clinic	3/21/2019
Matthew Carmichael	UOPD	4/17/2019
Mike Harwood	Campus Planning & Facilities Management	4/9/2019
Kelly Wolf	Business Affairs Office	3/15/2019
Jessie Minton	Information Services	4/12/2019
Deb Beck, Alan Baker	University Health Center	4/17/2019
Sheryl Johnson	Research Compliance Services	4/8/2019
Chuck Williams, Orca Merwin	Innovation Partnership Services	4/8/2019
Elizabeth Denecke	Sponsored Projects Services	4/8/2019
Mary Kay Fullenkamp	Safety & Risk Services	4/1/2019
Debra McLaughlin	University Health Center	3/21/2019
Mahnaz Ghaznavi	Public Records Office	3/2019
Greg Shabram	PCS	4/19/2019
Information Security & Privacy Governance Committee (ISP GC)	University-wide	4/3/2019
IT Directors	University-wide	3/2019

Other stakeholders scheduled for consultation before May 1 PAC meeting:

Paul Elstone, Lacie Larue, Maureen Procopio	University Advancement
John Callahan, Jen Spry	UO Foundation
Alisia Caban, Joseph DeWitz, Billy Ray	Counselling Center

Andre Le Duc	Safety & Risk Services
Cassandra Moseley	Office of Research & Innovation
Jim Brooks	Scholarship and Financial Aid
Hilary Gerdes	Accessibility
Greg Skaggs, Jace Delaney	Athletics
Melanie Muenzer	Office of the Provost
Fred Sabb	Lewis Center for Neuroimaging
Eric Corwin	Physics

POLICY

See attached

Reason for Policy

This policy provides the University of Oregon’s approach for classifying data and information systems (“information assets”) according to their potential level of risk to the University. The policy and associated procedures also assign roles and responsibilities for protecting information assets and detail how such assets must be protected based on their classifications.

~~This policy will provide for a way for the UO Community to classify data according to its level of sensitivity. The associated procedures detail how classified data should be protected.~~

Entities Affected by this Policy

All users of University of Oregon ~~data-users~~information

Web Site Address for this Policy

(To be updated upon posting)

Responsible Office

For questions about this policy, please contact the ~~Chief~~ Information Security Officer~~r~~ at 541-346-~~58379700~~ or infosec@uoregon.edu ~~wlaney@uoregon.edu.~~

Enactment & Revision History

Enacted as a permanent policy by President Schill on April 25, 2016.

Extended by President Michael Schill on December 15, 2015.

Enacted as an emergency policy by Dr. Scott Coltrane, Interim President on June 25, 2015.

This policy supersedes Fiscal Policy Manual 56.350.200-230 and UO Policy 10.00.01.

Policy

Summary

The purpose of this policy is to outline the acceptable approach for classifying university information assets into risk levels to facilitate determination of access authorization and appropriate security control ~~protect the information resources of the University from unauthorized access or damage.~~ The requirement to safeguard information ~~resources/assets~~ must be balanced with the need to support the pursuit of ~~legitimate academic university~~ objectives. The value of data as an institutional resource increases through its widespread and

appropriate use; its value diminishes through misuse, misinterpretation, or unnecessary restrictions to its access.

Definitions

Data Availability refers to methods for ensuring that required data is always accessible when needed, in accordance with University retention policy.

Data Confidentiality refers to methods for ensuring that access to sensitive data is limited to authorized individuals.

Data Integrity refers to methods for ensuring that data is complete, accurate, consistent, and safeguarded from unauthorized modification.

University Data refers to data owned by or in the custody of the University.

Classification of Data

~~All University data is classified into levels of sensitivity to provide a basis for understanding and managing University data. Accurate classification provides the basis to apply an appropriate level of security to University data. These classifications of data take into account the legal protections (by statute or regulation), contractual agreements, ethical considerations, or strategic or proprietary worth. Data can also be classified as a result of the application of “prudent stewardship,” where the best reason to protect the data is to reduce the possibility of harm to individuals or to the institution.~~

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Classification Levels

~~The classification level assigned to data will guide Data Trustees, Data Stewards, Data Custodians, business and technical project teams, and any others who may obtain or store data, in the security protections and access authorization mechanisms appropriate for that data. Such categorization encourages the discussion and subsequent full understanding of the nature of the data being displayed or manipulated. Data is classified as one of the following:~~

- ~~**Public (low level of sensitivity)**~~

~~Public data is not considered confidential. Examples of Public data include published directory information and academic course descriptions. The integrity of Public data must be protected, and the appropriate Data Trustee or Steward must authorize replication of the data. Even when data is considered Public, it cannot be released (copied or replicated) without appropriate approvals.~~

- ~~**Internal (moderate level of sensitivity)**~~

~~Access to “Internal” data must be requested from, and authorized by, the Data Trustee or Steward who is responsible for the data. Data may be accessed by persons as part of their job responsibilities. The integrity of this data is of primary importance, and the~~

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~~confidentiality of this data must be protected. Examples of internal data include purchasing data, financial transactions (that do not include sensitive data), and information covered by non-disclosure agreements.~~

- ~~• **Sensitive (highest level of sensitivity)**~~

~~Access to “Sensitive” data must be controlled from creation to destruction, and will be granted only to those persons affiliated with the University who require such access in order to perform their job, or to those individuals permitted by law. The confidentiality of data is of primary importance, although the integrity of the data must also be ensured. Access to sensitive data must be requested from, and authorized by, the Data Trustee or Steward who is responsible for the data. Sensitive data includes information protected by law or regulation.~~

~~In addition to the Sensitive classification, there are two subsections of Sensitive data.~~

- ~~• **Regulated sensitive data** includes data governed by state or federal law such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, Gramm Leach Bliley Act, and the Oregon Consumer Identity Theft Protection Act. It also may be governed by other federal, state, or local laws, or contractual obligations.~~
- ~~• **Unregulated sensitive data** includes data that is not regulated by statute, but still considered sensitive due to proprietary, ethical, or privacy considerations. This generally includes all forms of research.~~

~~**Data Associated with Selected Regulations**~~

~~Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA): Personal Health Data~~

~~Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA): Student Data (Education Records)~~

~~Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS): Credit Card Data~~

~~Gramm Leach Bliley Act (GLBA): Financial Data, Social Security Numbers~~

~~Oregon Consumer Identity Theft Protection Act (CITPA): Social Security number, Driver license number, state identification number, Passport number/U.S. issued, identification number, Financial Data~~

~~**Data Security Recommendations for the Classification Levels**~~

~~The Chief Information Security Officer will create and maintain security procedures for the various types of data use by the University. These are the Minimum Security Procedure for Devices with Sensitive Information and Minimum Security Procedure for Devices with Public or Internal Information. In addition, a security guide is available for the handling of physical data. This is the Minimum Security Procedure for Handling Physical University Data. Finally, Information Services has developed an Employee Electronic Records Access Procedure.~~

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Information Security Officer

The Chief Information Security Officer ~~implements-develops~~ policies and procedures to secure University information assets and comply with ~~the various state, and federal, and international~~ laws and regulations applicable to the University of Oregon.

Data Trustee

The Data Trustee for all University ~~d~~Data is the Provost or their designees who have planning, policy-level, and management responsibility for data within their designated functional area(s). Data Trustees' responsibilities include:

- Assigning and overseeing Data Stewards
- Overseeing the establishment of UO information asset data policies ~~in their areas.~~
- Determining statutory, ~~and~~ regulatory and other University requirements for UO information assets. data in their areas
- Promoting data quality and appropriate use ~~and data quality.~~

Data Stewards

Data Stewards are University officials having direct operational-level responsibility for the management of one or more types of data. Data Stewards must be authorized by the appropriate Data Trustee and are generally associate deans, associate vice presidents, directors or above, or research principle investigators within the scope of work of a research project or managers. Data Stewards' responsibilities include:

- Assigning and overseeing Data Custodians.
- The application of this and related policies and procedures to the systems, data, and other information resources under their care or control.
- Assigning data classification levels in accordance with this policy and associated procedures ~~labels using the University's data classification methodology.~~
- Collaborating with the CISO in identifying and implementing appropriate administrative and technical safeguards outlined in the UO Minimum Information Security Controls Standard, for protecting information assets (see Related Resources, below). ~~for Sensitive Data~~
- Communicating and providing education on the required ~~minimum~~ safeguards for ~~protected~~ data to authorized ~~data~~ users and ~~d~~Data ~~e~~Custodians.
- Authorizing access, both logical and physical, only to authorized ~~personnel~~ individuals who have a business need – as defined by law and university policies – to access specific data or other information assets.
- Authorizing remote access to information assets to only ~~A~~authorized individuals ~~Personnel~~ who have a business need – as defined by law and university policies – to access ~~specific data~~ through a secured system approved by the Chief Information Security Officer ~~of the University.~~

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In cases where multiple Data Stewards collect and maintain the same ~~sensitive~~ data elements, the Data Stewards must work together, in collaboration with the CISO, to apply the UO Minimum Information Security Controls, to implement a common set of safeguards.

Data Custodians

Data Custodians are university personnel or designated third-party agents ~~Information & Technology or computer system administrators~~ responsible for the operation and management of information systems ~~and servers~~ which collect, manage, process, or ~~and~~ provide access to University ~~d~~Data. Data Custodians must be authorized by the appropriate Data Stewards following procedures outline din the UO Minimum Information Security Controls Standard (see Related Resources, below). Data Custodians' responsibilities include:

- Applying the UO Minimum Information Security Controls ~~Maintaining physical and system security and safeguards~~ appropriate to the classification level of the data and other information assets in their custody
- Complying with applicable University acceptable use and computer security policies, standards, and procedures.
- Managing Data Consumer access as authorized by appropriate Data Stewards
- Following data handling and protection policies and procedures established by Data Stewards and the CISO-Information Security.

Data Consumers

Data Consumers are the individual University community members or third-party agents who have been granted access to University ~~d~~Data (wherever it is stored) in order to perform assigned duties or in fulfillment of assigned roles or functions ~~forat~~ the University. This access is granted solely for legitimate University purposes~~the conduct of University business~~. Data Consumers' responsibilities include:

- Following the policies and procedures established by the appropriate Data Stewards, Data Custodians, and the CISO-Information Security;
- Complying with University policies and federal, international, and state laws and regulations, ~~and University policies~~ associated with the University ~~d~~Data and information system use, ~~d;~~
- Implementing safeguards for protecting data as prescribed by appropriate Data Stewards and the CISO. for Sensitive Data; and
- Reporting any unauthorized access or data misuse to the Information Security Office, as well as the appropriate Data Trustee, Steward, ~~and or~~ Custodian, for remediation.

A current list of UO Data Trustees, Data Stewards, and Data Custodians is available in the UO Data Security Classification Table found below in Related Resources.

Data Classification of Data

Data Stewards must classify All University data – digital or printed - is classified into risk levels of sensitivity to provide a the basis for understanding and managing University data. Accurate classification provides the basis to apply applying on the appropriate level of security controls to University data. These classifications levels consider the state and federal of data take into account the legal protections (by statute or regulation), contractual agreements, ethical considerations, or strategic or proprietary worth. Data can also be classified as a result of the application of “prudent stewardship,” where the best reason to protect the data is to reduce the possibility of harm to individuals or to the institution.

Data Classification Levels

The classification level assigned to data will guide Data Trustees, Data Stewards, Data Custodians, business functional and technical project teams, and any others who may create, obtain, process, transmit or store data, in the security protections and access authorization mechanisms appropriate for that data. Such categorization encourages the discussion and subsequent full understanding of the nature of the data being displayed or manipulated. Data Stewards must classify University Data is classified as one of the following risk levels:

- **Public (low level of sensitivity) Low Risk (or Green)**

Data is classified as Low Risk if the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability of the data would have minimal strategic, compliance, operational, financial, or reputational risk to the University. Public data is not considered confidential. Examples of Public data include published directory information and academic course descriptions. The integrity of Public Low Risk data is of primary importance and must be protected. , and the The appropriate Data Trustee or Steward must authorize replication release of the Low Risk data. Refer to the UO Data Security Classification Table (see Related Resources, below) for examples of Low Risk data. Even when data is considered Public, it cannot be released (copied or replicated) without appropriate approvals.

- **Moderate Risk (or Amber) Internal (moderate level of sensitivity)**

Data is classified as Moderate Risk if the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability of the data would have moderate strategic, compliance, operational, financial, or reputational risk to the University. Integrity and availability of Moderate Risk data are of primary importance and must be protected; privacy and confidentiality should be protected as appropriate. Access to “Internal” Moderate Risk data must be requested from, and authorized by, the Data Trustee or Steward who is responsible for the data, as needed. Data access authorization may be provided to individuals may be accessed by persons as part of their job roles or responsibilities. The integrity of this data is of primary importance, and the confidentiality of this data must be protected. Examples of Internal data include purchasing data, financial transactions (that do not include sensitive data), and information covered by non-disclosure agreements. Refer to the Data Security Classification Table (see Related Resources, below) for examples of Moderate Risk data.

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- **High Risk (or Red) Sensitive (highest level of sensitivity)**

Data is classified as High Risk (the most sensitive/critical classification) if the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability of the data would have high strategic, compliance, operational, financial, or reputational risk to the University. Privacy, confidentiality, integrity, and availability are important and must be protected. Access to High Risk “Sensitive” data must be controlled from creation to destruction, and will/shall be granted only to those persons affiliated with the University who require such access in order to perform their job, or to those individuals permitted by state or federal law. The confidentiality of data is of primary importance, although the integrity of the data must also be ensured. Access to sensitive High Risk data must be requested from, and authorized by, the Data Trustee or Steward who is responsible for the data.

High Risk Sensitive data includes information protected by law or regulation. Note: some data that is not regulated may be classified as High Risk by the Data Trustees or Stewards due to proprietary, ethical, or privacy considerations. Refer to the Data Security Classification Table (see Related Resources, below) for examples of High Risk data.

In addition to the Sensitive classification, there are two subsections of Sensitive data.

Regulated sensitive data includes data governed by state or federal law such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, Gramm Leach Bliley Act, and the Oregon Consumer Identity Theft Protection Act. It also may be governed by other federal, state, or local laws, or contractual obligations.

Unregulated sensitive data includes data that is not regulated by statute, but still considered sensitive due to proprietary, ethical, or privacy considerations. This generally includes all forms of research.

Data Associated with Selected Regulations

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA): Personal Health Data

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA): Student Data (Education Records)

Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS): Credit Card Data

Gramm Leach Bliley Act (GLBA): Financial Data, Social Security Numbers

Oregon Consumer Identity Theft Protection Act (CITPA): Social Security number, Driver license number, state identification number, Passport number/U.S. issued, identification number, Financial Data

Classification of Information Systems and Technology Components

Information systems and technology components, including computing and storage devices, mobile devices, network components, and applications, adopt the highest classification of the data that they process, store, or transmit. For example, a system that processes, stores, or

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transmits High Risk data is classified as a High Risk system; whereas a system that processes Moderate Risk data as the highest data classification level is classified as a Moderate Risk system.

In addition to data-specific risks, information systems components may also affect the safety of the UO community, through interference with operational technology (OT) such as building and industrial automated control systems and automation and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems. An information system component is also classified as High, Moderate, or Low Risk if unauthorized access or modification or the loss of availability would have a high, moderate, or low safety risk respectively, to the UO community.

Data Security Recommendations**Requirements for the Classification Levels**

The Chief Information Security Officer ~~will~~shall create and maintain security procedures for the various types of data use by the University. These requirements are outlined in the UO Minimum Security Procedure for Devices with Sensitive Information and Minimum Security Procedure for Devices with Public or Internal Information. In addition, the CISO will create and maintain additional guidelines and procedures for appropriate handling of data including a security guide is available for the handling of physical data. This is the Minimum Security Procedure for Handling Physical University Data (see Related Resources, below). Finally, Information Services has developed an Employee Electronic Records Access Procedure.

Related Resources

UO Minimum Information Security Controls

UO Data Security Classification Table

Minimum Security Procedure for Devices with Sensitive Information

Minimum Security Procedure for Devices with Public or Internal Information

Minimum Security Procedure for Handling Physical University Data

Employee Electronic Records Access Procedure

Reason for Policy

This policy provides the University of Oregon’s approach for classifying data and information systems (“information assets”) according to their potential level of risk to the University. The policy and associated procedures also assign roles and responsibilities for protecting information assets and detail how such assets must be protected based on their classifications.

Entities Affected by this Policy

All users of University of Oregon information

Web Site Address for this Policy

(To be updated upon posting)

Responsible Office

For questions about this policy, please contact the Information Security Office at 541-346-5837 or infosec@uoregon.edu

Enactment & Revision History

Enacted as a permanent policy by President Schill on April 25, 2016.
Extended by President Michael Schill on December 15, 2015.
Enacted as an emergency policy by Dr. Scott Coltrane, Interim President on June 25, 2015.
This policy supersedes Fiscal Policy Manual 56.350.200-230 and UO Policy 10.00.01.

Policy

Summary

The purpose of this policy is to outline the acceptable approach for classifying university information assets into risk levels to facilitate determination of access authorization and appropriate security control. The requirement to safeguard information assets must be balanced with the need to support the pursuit of university objectives. The value of data as an institutional resource increases through its widespread and appropriate use; its value diminishes through misuse, misinterpretation, or unnecessary restrictions to its access.

Definitions

Data Availability refers to methods for ensuring that required data is always accessible when needed, in accordance with University retention policy.

Data Confidentiality refers to methods for ensuring that access to sensitive data is limited to authorized individuals.

Data Integrity refers to methods for ensuring that data is complete, accurate, consistent, and safeguarded from unauthorized modification.

University Data refers to data owned by or in the custody of the University.

Roles and Responsibilities

Chief Information Security Officer

The Chief Information Security Officer develops policies and procedures to secure University information assets and comply with state, federal, and international laws and regulations applicable to the University of Oregon.

Data Trustee

The Data Trustee for all University Data is the Provost or their designees who have planning, policy-level, and management responsibility for data within their designated functional area(s). Data Trustees' responsibilities include:

- Assigning and overseeing Data Stewards
- Overseeing the establishment of UO information asset policies.
- Determining statutory, regulatory and other University requirements for UO information assets.
- Promoting data quality and appropriate use.

Data Stewards

Data Stewards are University officials having direct operational-level responsibility for the management of one or more types of data. Data Stewards must be authorized by the appropriate Data Trustee and are generally associate deans, associate vice presidents, directors or above, or research principle investigators within the scope of work of a research project. Data Stewards' responsibilities include:

- Assigning and overseeing Data Custodians.
- The application of this and related policies and procedures to the systems, data, and other information resources under their care or control.
- Assigning data classification levels in accordance with this policy and associated procedures.

- Collaborating with the CISO in identifying and implementing appropriate administrative and technical safeguards outlined in the UO Minimum Information Security Controls Standard, for protecting information assets (see Related Resources, below).
- Communicating and providing education on the required safeguards for data to authorized users and Data Custodians.
- Authorizing access, both logical and physical, only to authorized individuals who have a business need – as defined by law and university policies - to access specific data or other information assets.
- Authorizing remote access to information assets to only authorized individuals who have a business need – as defined by law and university policies - to access through a secured system approved by the Chief Information Security Officer.

In cases where multiple Data Stewards collect and maintain the same data elements, the Data Stewards must work together, in collaboration with the CISO, to apply the UO Minimum Information Security Controls.

Data Custodians

Data Custodians are university personnel or designated third-party agents responsible for the operation and management of information systems which collect, manage, process, or provide access to University Data. Data Custodians must be authorized by the appropriate Data Stewards following procedures outlined in the UO Minimum Information Security Controls Standard (see Related Resources, below). Data Custodians' responsibilities include:

- Applying the UO Minimum Information Security Controls appropriate to the classification level of the data and other information assets in their custody
- Complying with applicable University acceptable use and computer security policies, standards, and procedures.
- Managing Data Consumer access as authorized by appropriate Data Stewards
- Following data handling and protection policies and procedures established by Data Stewards and the CISO.

Data Consumers

Data Consumers are the individual University community members or third-party agents who have been granted access to University Data (wherever it is stored) in order to perform assigned duties or in fulfillment of assigned roles or functions for the University. This access is granted solely for legitimate University purposes. Data Consumers' responsibilities include:

- Following the policies and procedures established by the appropriate Data Stewards, Data Custodians, and the CISO.
- Complying with University policies and federal, international, and state laws and regulations associated with the University Data and information system use.
- Implementing safeguards for protecting data as prescribed by appropriate Data Stewards and the CISO.

- Reporting any unauthorized access or data misuse to the Information Security Office, the appropriate Data Trustee, Steward, or Custodian, for remediation.

A current list of UO Data Trustees, Data Stewards, and Data Custodians is available in the UO Data Security Classification Table found below in Related Resources.

Data Classification

Data Stewards must classify all University data – digital or printed - into risk levels to provide the basis for understanding and applying the appropriate level of security controls. These classification levels consider the state and federal legal protections, contractual agreements, ethical considerations, or strategic or proprietary worth. Data can also be classified as a result of the application of “prudent stewardship,” where the reason to protect the data is to reduce the possibility of harm to individuals or to the institution.

Data Classification Levels

The classification level assigned to data will guide Data Trustees, Data Stewards, Data Custodians, functional and technical project teams, and any others who may create, obtain, process, transmit or store data, in the security protections and access authorization mechanisms appropriate for that data. Data Stewards must classify University Data as one of the following risk levels:

- **Low Risk (or Green)**
Data is classified as Low Risk if the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability of the data would have *minimal* strategic, compliance, operational, financial, or reputational risk to the University. The integrity of Low Risk data is of primary importance and must be protected. The appropriate Data Trustee or Steward must authorize release of Low Risk data. Refer to the UO Data Security Classification Table (see Related Resources, below) for examples of Low Risk data.
- **Moderate Risk (or Amber)** Data is classified as Moderate Risk if the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability of the data would have *moderate* strategic, compliance, operational, financial, or reputational risk to the University. Integrity and availability of Moderate Risk data are of primary importance and must be protected; privacy and confidentiality should be protected as appropriate. Access to Moderate Risk data must be authorized by the Data Trustee or Steward who is responsible for the data, as needed. Data access authorization may be provided to individuals as part of their job roles or responsibilities. Refer to the Data Security Classification Table (see Related Resources, below) for examples of Moderate Risk data.
- **High Risk (or Red)**
Data is classified as High Risk (the most sensitive/critical classification) if the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability of the data would have *high* strategic, compliance, operational, financial, or reputational risk to the University. Privacy, confidentiality, integrity, and availability are important and must be protected. Access

to High Risk data must be controlled from creation to destruction, and shall be granted only to those persons affiliated with the University who require such access in order to perform their job, or to those individuals permitted by state or federal law. The confidentiality of data is of primary importance, although the integrity of the data must also be ensured. Access to High Risk data must be requested from, and authorized by, the Data Trustee or Steward who is responsible for the data.

High Risk data includes information protected by law. Note: some data that is not regulated may be classified as High Risk by the Data Trustees or Stewards due to proprietary, ethical, or privacy considerations. Refer to the Data Security Classification Table (see Related Resources, below) for examples of High Risk data.

Classification of Information Systems and Technology Components

Information systems and technology components, including computing and storage devices, mobile devices, network components, and applications, adopt the highest classification of the data that they process, store, or transmit. For example, a system that processes, stores, or transmits High Risk data is classified as a High Risk system; whereas a system that processes Moderate Risk data as the highest data classification level is classified as a Moderate Risk system.

In addition to data-specific risks, information systems components may also affect the safety of the UO community, through interference with operational technology (OT) such as building and industrial automated control systems and automation and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems. An information system component is also classified as High, Moderate, or Low Risk if unauthorized access or modification or the loss of availability would have a high, moderate, or low safety risk respectively, to the UO community.

Data Security Requirements for the Classification Levels

The Chief Information Security Officer shall create and maintain security procedures for the various types of data use by the University. These requirements are outlined in the UO In addition, the CISO will create and maintain additional guidelines and procedures for appropriate handling of data including the Minimum Security Procedures for Handling Physical University Data (see Related Resources, below).

Related Resources

UO Minimum Information Security Controls {[hyperlink to be filled](#)}

UO Data Security Classification Table {[hyperlink to be filled](#)}

Minimum Security Procedure for Handling Physical University Data {[hyperlink to be filled](#)}