RISK ASSESSMENT STANDARD

Standard Title:	**RISK ASSESSMENT STANDARD (NSU-RA)**
Standard Number:	**38-10.15**
Standard Reference:	**COV SEC530 INFORMATION SECURITY STANDARD**
Control Family:	**RISK ASSESSMENT (RA)**
Approval Date:	**10/21/2024**
Responsible Office:	**Office of Information Technology**
Responsible Executive:	**Chief Information Officer**

Applies to: All employees, students, visitors, and contractors, in all academic and operational departments and offices at all Norfolk State University locations, and to all university information technology and data, whether owned and operated by the university, or used for university business through contractual arrangements.

STANDARD STATEMENT

All individuals to whom this standard applies shall comply with the Norfolk State University Information Security Standards and protect all IT systems and data to which they have access commensurate with sensitivity and risk. All university information technology and data whether owned and operated by the university or used for university business through contractual arrangements shall be managed and protected in accordance with the provisions of the Norfolk State University Information Security Standards.

TABLE OF CONTENTS PAGE NUMBER

STANDARD STATEMENT 1
DEFINITIONS 1
CONTACT(S) 3
STAKEHOLDER(S) 3
RISK ASSESSMENT (RA) 4
EDUCATION AND COMPLIANCE 5
EXCEPTIONS 5
REVIEW SCHEDULE 5
RELATED DOCUMENTS 6

DEFINITIONS

Authorization: The process of verifying that a requested action or service is approved for a specific entity.

Authorize: A decision to grant access, typically automated by evaluating a subject's attributes.

Authorized: A system entity or actor that has been granted the right, permission, or capability to access a system resource.

Availability: The property that data or information is accessible and usable upon demand by an authorized person and that timely, reliable access to data and information services is provided for authorized users.

Computer Network: Two or more computers that can share information, typically connected by cable, data line, or satellite link.

Confidentiality: Protection of systems and data so that unauthorized parties cannot view the data, the property that sensitive information is not disclosed to unauthorized entities, and the assurance that information is not disclosed to unauthorized individuals or processes.

Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI): Information the Federal government owns or has created that needs to be safeguarded and disseminated using only controls consistent with Federal laws, regulations and policies.

Data Custodian: An individual or organization in physical or logical possession of data for Data Owners. Data Custodians are responsible for protecting the data in their possession from unauthorized access, alteration, destruction, or usage and for providing and administering general controls, such as back-up and recovery systems.

Data Owner: An individual who defines, manages, and controls the use of data and ensures compliance with the Information Security Standards with respect to the data.

Information Security: The policies, standards, guidelines, processes, activities, and actions taken to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information systems and the data they handle commensurate with sensitivity and risk.

Information Security Incident: means an adverse event or situation, whether intentional or accidental, that poses an enterprise impact or threat to the integrity, availability, or confidentiality of university data or systems or requires reporting based upon regulatory requirements.

Information Technology (IT) System: An interconnected set of IT resources under the same direct management control.

Integrity: Guarding against improper information modification or destruction, including ensuring information non-repudiation and authenticity.

Intellectual Property: Please refer to the BOV POLICY # 35 (2019) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY.

Sensitive System: A system that processes any data of which the compromise with respect to confidentiality, integrity, and/or availability could have a material adverse effect on NSU interests, the conduct of NSU programs, or the privacy to which individuals are entitled. Please refer to the 32-02 - Data Classification Policy

Sensitive Information/Data: Any data of which the compromise with respect to confidentiality, integrity, and/or availability could have a material adverse effect on COV interests, the conduct of agency programs, or the privacy to which individuals are entitled. Please refer to the 32-02 - Data Classification Policy

System Administrator: An individual or entity that implements, manages, and/or operates a system at the direction of the System Owner, Data Owner, and/or Data Custodian.

System Owner: An individual or entity responsible for the operation and maintenance of an IT system.

Technological Resources: Technological resources include but are not limited to: computers and terminals, software, printers, networks and equipment, telecommunication equipment and services such as telephones, facsimile machines, modems, basic and long distance calling service, and voicemail; television and radio systems and equipment; computer information systems; and, data files and/or documents managed or maintained by the University which reside on disk, tape or other media. Technology resources also include multimedia equipped classrooms, computer classrooms, computer laboratories, computer offices, and computer furnishings operated or maintained by NSU.

Users: Faculty, staff and students as well as others who have been authorized to use Norfolk State University's technological resources, (e.g., contractors, interns, volunteers, etc.).

CONTACT(S)

The Office of Information Technology (OIT) officially interprets this standard. OIT is responsible for obtaining approval for any revisions as required through the appropriate governance structures. Questions regarding this standard should be directed to OIT Security.

STAKEHOLDER(S)

University Faculty & Staff
Students
Others who have been authorized to use Norfolk State University's technological resources.

RISK ASSESSMENT (RA)

NSU-RA-1 SECURITY CATEGORIZATION

a. Categorize the system and information it processes, stores, and transmits;
b. Document the security categorization results, including supporting rationale; and
c. Verify that the authorizing official or authorizing official designated representative reviews and approves the security categorization decision.

NSU-RA-2 RISK ASSESSMENT

a. Conduct a risk assessment, including:
    1. Identifying threats to and vulnerabilities in the system;
    2. Determining the likelihood and magnitude of harm, from the unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction of the system, the information it processes, stores, or transmits, and any related information; and
    3. Determining the likelihood and impact of adverse effects on individuals arising from the processing of personally identifiable information;
b. Integrate risk assessment results and risk management decisions from the organization and mission or business process perspectives with system-level risk assessments;
c. Document risk assessment results in a risk assessment report;
d. Review risk assessment results at least on an annual basis and following an environmental change;
e. Disseminate risk assessment results to the appropriate organization-defined personnel; and
f. Update the risk assessment on an annual basis or when there are significant changes to the system, its environment of operation, or other conditions that may impact the security or privacy state of the system.

NSU-RA-3 VULNERABILITY MONITORING AND SCANNING

a. Monitor and scan for vulnerabilities in the system and hosted applications at least once every 30 days, and when new vulnerabilities potentially affecting the system are identified and reported;
b. Employ vulnerability monitoring tools and techniques that facilitate interoperability among tools and automate parts of the vulnerability management process by using standards for:
    1. Enumerating platforms, software flaws, and improper configurations;
    2. Formatting checklists and test procedures; and
    3. Measuring vulnerability impact;
c. Analyze vulnerability scan reports and results from vulnerability monitoring;
d. Remediate legitimate critical and high vulnerabilities within 30 days;
e. Remediate legitimate medium vulnerabilities within 90 days;
f. Remediate legitimate low and informational vulnerabilities only if deemed necessary;

g. Shares information obtained from the vulnerability monitoring process and control assessments with the appropriate personnel to help eliminate similar vulnerabilities in other systems;
h. Employ vulnerability monitoring tools that include the capability to readily update the vulnerabilities to be scanned; and
i. Determine if configuration information about the system is discoverable and creates additional risk to the system.

NSU-RA-4 THREAT HUNTING

a. Establish and maintain a cyber threat hunting capability to:
    1. Search for indicators of compromise in organizational systems; and
    2. Detect, track, and disrupt threats that evade existing controls; and
b. Employ the threat hunting capability at least on an annual basis.

EDUCATION AND COMPLIANCE

This standard shall be widely published and distributed to the University community. To ensure timely publication and distribution thereof, the Responsible Office will make every effort to:

- Communicate the standard in writing, electronic or otherwise, to the University community within 30 days of approval;
- Post the standard on the appropriate website; and
- Educate and train all stakeholders and appropriate audiences on the standard's content, as necessary. Failure to meet the publication requirements does not invalidate this standard.

The Chief Information Security Officer (or designee) is responsible for official interpretation of this standard. Questions regarding the application of this standard should be directed to the Office of Information Technology. The Chief Information Security Officer reserves the right to revise or eliminate this standard.

Violations of this standard, including without limitation any misuse of data or IT resources may result in the limitation or revocation of access to University IT resources. In addition, failure to comply with requirements of this standard may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or expulsion in accordance with relevant University policies, and may violate federal, state, or local laws.

EXCEPTIONS

Exceptions to this standard must be documented in writing and approved by the Vice President for Operations and Chief Strategist, the Chief Information Officer, and the Chief Information Security Officer.

REVIEW SCHEDULE

- Next Scheduled Review: 10/21/2027
- Approval by, date: OIT Standards Development Group, 10/21/2024
- Revision History: 10/21/2024,10/30/2025,10/20/2026
- Supersedes: SEC530 Controls

RELATED DOCUMENTS

32-01 - Acceptable Use of Technological Resources
https://www.nsu.edu/policy/admin-32-01.aspx
32-02 - Data Classification Policy
https://www.nsu.edu/policy/admin-32-02.aspx
38-10 - Information Security Policy
https://www.nsu.edu/policy/bov-38-10.aspx