



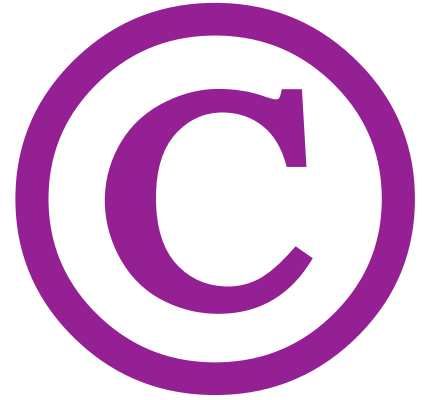
Why Copyright?

Even though copyright protection is secured automatically upon creation, there are certain definite advantages to copyright registration.

U.S. Copyright Protection Benefits

Registering with the U.S. Copyright Office establishes your claim to the copyright for your dissertation/thesis and provides certain protections if your copyright is violated. Because of the availability of content on the open web via repositories and other avenues, registering your U.S. copyright can be a significant benefit for the protection of your work.

- Registration establishes a public record of the author's copyright in a work
- The registration certificate serves as prima facie evidence of validity in court (if you register within five years after publication).
- Registered works are eligible for statutory damages and recovery of attorney fees.
- Registration of a work is required prior to being able to sue for copyright infringement, and you may claim statutory damages and attorney's fees only for infringements occurring after your work is registered.
- For registered works, statutory damages are set out in [Title 17, Section 504 of the U.S. Code](#), and range from \$750-\$150,000 USD per infringement. This contrasts with infringements occurring prior to copyright registration which are only eligible to recover actual damages with no recovery of attorney's fees.



SOURCE: United States Copyright Office website
<https://copyright.gov/help/faq/>
<https://copyright.gov/title17/92chap5.html>

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