



MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY
Office of Compliance and Enterprise Risk Management

Compliance Tips of the Month

Benchmarking and Measuring Effectiveness

As part of our daily activities to identify, assess, and mitigate risk, establishing benchmarks can be an effective way to measure project, program, and operational progress and performance. For academic and financial operations, benchmarking can also assist managers, chairs, and staff members align their department's goals and performance with the goals and mission of MTSU. Benchmarking additionally serves as a tool to measure the effectiveness of a department's/division's controls, activities, and procedures.

Therefore, as we consider goals and measures for the 2018-19 fiscal year, and as we reflect on our successes and opportunities from the 2017-18 fiscal year, you may wish to utilize benchmarks for your department or division to promote the success of our students, and to further the integrity, compliance, and success of our academic, financial, programmatic, public safety, foundation, and operational activities. Such benchmarking additionally helps MTSU to continue to combat fraud, abuse, and waste of State and institutional resources.

For additional information regarding benchmarking or risk management tools, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Compliance and Enterprise Risk Management.

More on Data Privacy and You

Increasingly, cybersecurity threats are a reality in our everyday activities. The following are some reminders and tips to help you protect MTSU's data, as well as your own personal data from cybersecurity threats.

- Create passwords that are hard to guess but easy for you to remember.
- Ensure you comply with MTSU's ITD policies.
- Whenever possible, utilize dual authentication to further protect access to your data.
- Phishing emails are real and a common occurrence, so before you click on a link, wire institutional funds, or provide a password, pause before responding to a suspicious email, and contact Abuse@mtsu.edu if you suspect you have received a phishing email.
- Spoofing emails are ones that pretend to be from a legitimate email, administrator, student, or other individual. If the email looks suspicious or asks you to do something that seems suspicious, contact MTSU's ITD at Abuse@mtsu.edu.
- Log-off your computer when stepping away from your office or desk.
- Lock drawers containing confidential information when you are not present in your office.

For additional information regarding data security tips, please contact ITD at ITDHelp@mtsu.edu.

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I AM *true* **BLUE**.

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