Disposing of Inactive Records

The University of Connecticut (UConn) is a public university. UConn is also considered a State Agency under the executive branch of the State of Connecticut. As a public university and State Agency, UConn is subject to the requirements of the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act. This means that any record created or maintained by UConn faculty or staff is presumed to be available to the public, except under very limited circumstances.

The definition of a public record is found in Connecticut General Statute 1-200, which states that “any recorded data or information relating to the conduct of the public’s business prepared, owned, used, received or retained by a public agency whether such data or information be handwritten, typed, tape-recorded, printed, photostatted, photographed or recorded by any other method.” Accordingly, UConn employees should be aware that any e-mails or attachments shared between them and other colleagues or anyone outside the University are potentially public information. This warning includes use of your office computer, lap top, home computer (if used for business purposes), smartphone, or any other University device. For more information on the appropriate use of your University e-mail account see the Electronic (E-mail) communication policy at: http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=318.

If you are asked to provide any information or documents in UConn’s possession under the Freedom of Information Act, please contact the University Privacy Officer, Rachel Krinsky Rudnick of the Office of Audit, Compliance & Ethics (OACE) immediately for advice and direction before turning over any documents. She may be reached by phone at 860-486-5256 or by fax at 860-486-4527. These matters are time sensitive and it is imperative that you forward these requests to her as soon as you receive them. In Rachel’s absence, please contact Liz Vitullo at 860-486-2530.

The University of Connecticut, like other state agencies, is required to follow Records Management disposition policies and procedures. As such, records are kept for a certain period and then may be disposed of, depending upon the type of record it is and whether it is the copy of record, or the copy of the original evidence of the action undertaken. In order to find out how long you need to retain the records, you need to consult the General Schedules, located on the Connecticut State Library website: http://ctstatelibrary.org/publicrecords/state.

The RC-108 form is a state form you fill out to apply to dispose of records that have met their retention period. It is available from the Connecticut State Library website: http://ctstatelibrary.org/publicrecords/state. It is also available from the Records and Information Management (RIM) website: http://rim.uconn.edu/forms/. If you use this particular link, the form is partially completed.

If you are not familiar with this form, we will start at the top.

The most recent form was revised in July 2011 which date is in the upper left hand corner of the page.
In most instances you are going to request destruction, so you are going to check the box next to destruction. Whoever is responsible either for completing the form or knowing where these records are or doing the general filing in this area must sign off as the records custodian. This is the person that will be contacted should there be a question about the form.

If it has not already been completed, and you wish to do so, the RMLO (Records Management Liaison Officer) is Betsy Pittman, title is University Archivist, and the telephone number is 860.486.4507.

Now we’re getting into describing the documents you are requesting to destroy.

The Schedule & Series Number and the Record Series Title can be found in the General Schedules located at the Connecticut State Library website: http://ctstatelibrary.org/publicrecords/general-schedules-state.

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If you look at the Administrative Records, for example, you will see that Calendars for Administrative Head has a series number of S1-050, and a Minimum Retention is the term of office plus 2 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Series #</th>
<th>Records Series Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Retention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S1-050</td>
<td>Calendars – Administrative Head</td>
<td>This series documents daily activities of the administrative head of an agency (i.e., commissioner, executive director, agency head, or chief executive officer).</td>
<td>Term of office plus 2 years [NOTE: term of office is the entire length of time a person holds the position]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Series number for Calendars of the Staff is S1-060, with a Minimum Retention period of 1 year after end of year to which record relates.

Below is a sample of a filled in form. You can see that “Routine Correspondence” is repeated both in terms of hard copy and in terms of email. The state does not distinguish between the different formats. This example does as the dates and the volume are different.

The Dates of Records are from the earliest that you have to the most recent that you may destroy. In this case, the minimum retention period for Routine Correspondence is 2 years, and the form is to be submitted in July of 2012, the most recent correspondence that can be authorized for destruction is June 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHEDULE &amp; SERIES NUMBER (e.g. S1-070 or S1-070-444)</th>
<th>RECORDS SERIES TITLE</th>
<th>DATES OF RECORDS FROM TO</th>
<th>VOLUME OF RECORDS</th>
<th>PROPOSED DATE OF DISPOSITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. S1-110</td>
<td>Routine Correspondence</td>
<td>1987 June 2010</td>
<td>2.5 cf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. S1-110</td>
<td>Routine Correspondence (email)</td>
<td>2000 June 2010</td>
<td>3 GB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. S1-760</td>
<td>Grade Books: Faculty</td>
<td>1953 June 2007</td>
<td>6 cf</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Volume of Records is an estimate only. A file drawer in a vertical file cabinet holds about 2 cubic feet. A file drawer in a lateral file cabinet holds about 3 cubic feet. A paper box holds about 1.5 cubic feet.

Email and other electronic records are measured in megabytes or gigabytes, not in the number of cds or dvds or the number of files.

Try to give a good estimate of the volume of records you have.
One of the most common financial records many office have and for which they have the copy of record, are ProCard records. The schedule and series number is S3-230. The record series title is Purchasing Card Records. Keep in mind that the state’s minimum required retention period for most financial records is three years or until audited. However, the University has adopted a longer retention period of 7 years for financial records.

For example, on July 2, 2012, the state finalized the audit through Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009. You may now request to destroy your fiscal records through June of 2009. This is because the University was audited through June of 2009 and the records are at least 7 years old at the time this document was published. Therefore, in this example, both the state and University’s retention requirements were met.

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1 As stated within the Fiscal Records Retention Schedule, “The minimum retention requirement, “3 years, or until audited, whichever is later,” requires further explanation. In most instances ‘audit’ refers to the general agency audit conducted by the State Auditors of Public Accounts, unless otherwise noted. The specific record itself may or may not have been examined as part of the audit process.” Go to [https://www.cga.ct.gov/apa/audit-reports.asp#U](https://www.cga.ct.gov/apa/audit-reports.asp#U) to check what audits were completed by fiscal year.

2 Keep in mind, you may not always have the “copy of record” or “official record copy.” If you do not have the copy of record, generally you may dispose of the records when no longer administratively useful. For further guidance on how to determine if you have the “copy of record” visit: [http://rim.uconn.edu/tutorials/](http://rim.uconn.edu/tutorials/).

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Once you have filled in the different types of records that you have and assigned the different Schedules and Series numbers, please sign the form and mail the original to:

Betsy Pittman  
Archives & Special Collections  
Thomas J. Dodd Research Center  
405 Babbidge Road, Unit 1205  
Storrs, CT 06269-1205  

Or  

Betsy Pittman, U-Box 1205 (Intercampus Mail)  

Once reviewed and sent to the State Library, it takes about a month before it is returned with all its approvals and signatures.  

Do not destroy the records before you receive notification that the records were approved for destruction.  

Once you receive a PDF copy of the form with its four signatures, you may destroy the records listed.  

As of August 1, 2016 the RMLO will maintain the official copy of the RC-108 form moving forward. Any RC-108 forms that were authorized prior to this date remain the responsibility of the record custodians.  

EXCEPTION:  

You are responsible for these records should any litigation hold be placed on them, or for any FOIA request.  

Even if you have received permission to destroy, if the records exist at the time you receive the FOIA request or Litigation Hold Notice, you may NOT destroy them until you have been notified by Audit, Compliance & Ethics or the Office of General Counsel that the request has been satisfied or the hold has been lifted.