

Academic Honesty

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating, plagiarism, or obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive, fraudulent, or unauthorized means or helping someone else to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Definition of Cheating

Cheating is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of dishonest, deceptive, fraudulent, or unauthorized means. Helping someone commit an act of academic dishonesty is also considered cheating. The following are only some of the many forms cheating may take:

- Copying another's work on an exam, paper, or project; any behavior that defeats the intent of an exam
- Possessing or using unauthorized materials during an exam; or collaborating on a project, homework, or other assignment to be turned in for credit where the instructor expressly forbids such collaboration
- Communicating with fellow students during an exam, taking an exam for another student, purposely allowing another student to copy during an exam, or providing coursework for another student to turn in as his or her own effort
- Fabricating, falsifying or misrepresenting data or results from experiments, interviews or surveys
- Submitting the same work in more than one class for credit without permission from the instructor
- Knowingly furnishing false information to the college including forgery, altering of campus documents or records, tampering with grading procedures, fabricating lab assignments, or altering medical excuses

Definition of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as representing the words, ideas, or work of another as one's own in any academic exercise. Plagiarism consists of taking the words or substance of another work and either copying or paraphrasing without giving credit to the source whether that material is paraphrased or copied verbatim or near verbatim form. Plagiarism is applicable to written, oral, and artistic work. The following examples are only some of the many forms plagiarism may take:

- Word-for-word copying of work written by someone else
- Failure to give proper credit for ideas, statements of facts, or conclusions derived by another, including undocumented Web source usage
- Failure to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether a paragraph, sentence, or phrase
- Close and extended paraphrasing of another work without acknowledging the source
- Submitting a paper purchased from a research or term paper service, including the internet

Other Specific Examples of Academic Dishonesty

- Purposely allowing another student to copy from your paper during a test
- Giving homework, term paper or other academic work to another student to plagiarize
- Having another person submit any work in your name
- Lying to an instructor or college official to improve your grade

- Altering graded work after it has been returned, then submitting the work for re-grading
- Stealing tests
- Forging signatures on college documents, altering campus documents or records, tampering with grading procedures, fabricating assignments, or altering medical excuses
- Collaboration without permission of instructor
- Gaining unlawful or unauthorized access to college or district computers or servers

Academic Dishonesty and its Consequences

- Faculty members have the right to choose whether or not to pursue suspected cases of plagiarism and cheating.
- When addressing plagiarism or cheating with reasonable evidence, the faculty member should meet with the student to discuss the concern. The student shall have the opportunity to share their side of the story and explain their behavior.
- Faculty members may consult with their Division Dean or Dean of Student Affairs when determining whether academic dishonesty has occurred.
- In situations where cheating or plagiarism has occurred, the faculty member is to determine the academic consequence in compliance with Ed Code, and board policy and procedures, which prohibit dropping a student from a course. Faculty members shall inform students of the grade penalty that will be assessed. The consequences may be any of the following options:
 - Receive an “F” in the course
 - Receive a “0” on that assignment
 - Be referred to the Dean of Student Affairs for further disciplinary action
- In situations where academic dishonesty has occurred, the faculty should also notify their Division Dean. Faculty members are also encouraged to submit a Student Misconduct Form to report the violation to the Dean of Student Affairs. All pertinent information such as exams, plagiarized sources, and/or other possible evidence should be attached and submitted with the form.
- Students will meet with the Dean of Student Affairs and receive due process; students have the right to grieve an action they feel violates their student rights.
- The Dean of Student Affairs will address the behavior reasonably through the procedures outlined in AP 5520.
- The Student Affairs Office will maintain records related to violations of academic dishonesty and other violations of the college Standards of Conduct policy.