

Academic Integrity: Processes & Expectations at the College Level

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UM Academic Integrity Code

The UM *Code of Academic Integrity*
instituted in 1990-1991 academic year.
www.shc.umd.edu/code.html

Modified code.

Authority lies with the students.

Agenda

- Importance of Integrity
- Academic Integrity processes at UM
- Academic Integrity Violations
- Suggestions for prevention
- Expectations for students

Student Honor Council

- The UM Honor Council receives approximately 300 allegations per academic year.
- Approximately 60% are charged with plagiarism.
- Over 70% of those students are found responsible.
- The XF penalty is imposed in more than 80% of the cases in which students are found responsible.

"Setting and enforcing high standards for academic integrity goes beyond simple moralism. It also helps students develop values that are necessary for living in--and contributing to-- a society where people routinely depend upon the knowledge and integrity of others."

Gary Pavela
University of Maryland

The Honor Pledge

*" I pledge on my honor
that I have not given or
received any unauthorized
assistance on this
assignment/examination."*

Types of Violations

Four possible charges of academic dishonesty, according to the *Code of Academic Integrity*:

- cheating
- fabrication
- facilitating academic dishonesty
- plagiarism

Facilitation

Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to violate any provision of the Code.

Examples include:

- Giving another student your homework so that he/she can copy answers (electronic transfers are common).
- Allowing another to copy your answers during an exam.
- Taking an exam for another student.

Cheating

Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.

Examples include:

- Looking at someone's paper or using a "cheat sheet" while taking an exam
- Allowing someone to take an exam for you
- Submitting the same work more than once for credit without the professors permission.

Plagiarism

Intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise.

Examples include:

- Quoting a source and failing to give proper citation.
- Putting a sources' text into your own words (paraphrasing) and not citing the source.
- Copying someone's else's computer code for a project and submitting it as your own.

Fabrication

Intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

Examples include:

- Making up data on a lab experiment.
- Making up a source to use as a citation in a paper (Internet makes this very easy).

What do college students need to know?

"Students must understand what plagiarism is and understand the ethics of writing. It is essential to know what borrowing ideas from other authors means, how to paraphrase properly and how to cite sources."

Cortley, David T. *Understanding University Success: A report from Standards for Success*. A project of the Association of American Universities and The Pew Charitable Trusts. Eugene, OR: Center for Educational Policy Research, 2003.

Students have difficulty:

- Keeping track of sources
- Paraphrasing
- Citing electronic sources
- Deciding what is 'common knowledge'
- Untangling their own ideas from ideas they've borrowed

Implications for Practice

- Emphasize Academic Integrity in the Classroom
- Have Conversations with Students
- Emphasize Integrity Many Ways
- Get Students Talking to Each other
- Consider Adopting an Honor Code

Dissertation Research Findings

- Favorable Attitudes
- Students Reported They Did Not Cheat
- Honor Code Did Not Directly Impact Behavior

Prevention in the Classroom

- Design research paper assignments to discourage plagiarism by using specific/personalized topics, or changing topics every semester.
- Require submission of interim products, such as drafts of research papers.
- Make sure students have the necessary paraphrasing and citation skills they need to complete an assignment.

Dissertation Research Findings

- Faculty Behavior Matters
- Peer Behavior matters
- Students are Reluctant to Report Peers
- Grades Matters

Thank you!

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