

Academic Honesty

As a learning community, the University upholds the highest standards of academic integrity in all its academic activities, by faculty, staff, administrators and students. Academic integrity involves much more than respecting intellectual property rights. It lies at the heart of learning, creativity, and the core values of the University. Those who learn, teach, write, publish, present, or exhibit creative works are advised to familiarize themselves with the requirements of academic integrity and make every effort to avoid possible offenses against it, knowingly or unknowingly.

The following policy is intended to inform graduate students about the basic requirements of academic integrity and to outline the procedures that will be followed, in instances of plagiarism and cheating.

1. Plagiarism involves the appropriation of another person's ideas, interpretation, words (even a few), data, statements, illustration or creative work and their presentation as one's own. An offense against plagiarism constitutes a serious academic misconduct.

Although offenses against academic integrity can manifest themselves in various ways, the most common forms of offenses are plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism goes beyond the copying of an entire article. It may include, but is not limited to: copying a section of an article or a chapter from a book, reproduction of an art work, illustration, cartoon, photograph and the like and passing them off as one's own. Copying from the Internet is no less serious an offense than copying from a book or printed article, even when the material is not copyrighted. Plagiarism also includes borrowing ideas and phrases from, or paraphrasing, someone else's work, published or unpublished, without acknowledging and documenting the source. Acknowledging and documenting the source of an idea or phrase, at the point where it is utilized, is necessary even when the idea or phrase is taken from a speech or conversation with another person.

2. An equally serious offense against academic integrity is cheating. Cheating, in the academic context, is defined as resorting to dishonest means or fraud, to obtain academic credit, honor, or recognition. Cheating takes a variety of forms, such as receiving or giving assistance on a task that was expected to be performed individually, submitting the same paper or product for credit in two or more different courses (without instructor knowledge and consent); giving or receiving help during tests; copying another person's answer during a test; using a surrogate to take a test; fabricating data; or claiming to have conducted research, when none has been done.

*Please see the Graduate Catalog for possible sanctions against academic dishonesty and the appeal process.