

ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY & PLEDGE

“If it be a sin to covet honor, / I am the most offending soul alive”

(Henry V 4.3.28-29).

I. HIGHER LEARNING:

- At the core of higher education lies the *fair, diligent, civil, ethical, and honest* pursuit of knowledge.
- Thus, faculty and students must cooperate to promote and safeguard the integrity of the institution’s fundamental values.
- **Cheating**—in any of its many forms—slowly erodes the foundations of higher learning.
 - Consequently, it casts aspersions on those who study conscientiously and industriously, creates a disruptive atmosphere of mistrust, tarnishes the reputation of the institution, and undermines the entirety of the educational system.
 - Ultimately, deceit, dishonesty, and duplicity detrimentally affect society as a whole: Since *virtue is a habit*—a sentiment echoed by Aristotle, Cicero, and Thomas Aquinas—unethical habits cultivated in college often yield unethical habits in family life and in the work force.
 - Thus, what is at issue here is not only *academic* integrity, but *personal* and *professional* integrity as well.

II. DEFINITIONS:

- **“Academic Integrity”** refers to the ethical conduct of scholars and necessitates that all academic work—from experiments to examinations—*unequivocally* represent the effort of the identified individual (Joint efforts, of course, indicate the exception, but *only* when accompanied by explicit authorization.).
- **Academic honesty** refers to the practice of
 - Staff, students, and faculty have the shared responsibility to promote and uphold the fundamental principles of Academic Honesty and to deter actively its breach in every form.
 - upholds the quality of college education
 - in the pursuit of knowledge
 - (core values of higher education:) trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and honesty (in the pursuit of knowledge)
- **Academic dishonesty** represents a growing problem in our technologically expanding society, and it presents a special problem for online courses. Essentially, this corrosive force in academia compromises the esteemed value, significance, and character of higher education and depreciates the authentic endeavors and achievements of the scrupulous majority of the student population.

III. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

While Academic Honesty or Integrity remains the responsibility of all scholars—teachers and students alike—students, specifically, have the responsibility:

- to help educators foster a safe, fair, respectful, and confidential learning environment
- to protect and promote the highest standards of academic integrity
- to respect and enforce the honor code
- to apply these principles to their own work, as well as the work of their classmates.

IV. TYPES of ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

- *Examples of intellectual thievery include (but are certainly not limited to) those discussed below:*

<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ plagiarism○ cheating○ copying on a test○ tampering○ aiding and abetting○ unauthorized possession○ submitting previous work○ ghosting or misrepresenting○ altering exams○ computer theft	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Cribbing (using unauthorized materials during an examination)○ Copying/Collaboration (allowing another to cheat off you)○ Sabotage (marring, sabotaging, or destroying another's work)○ Substitution (utilizing a proxy or acting as proxy for an academic exercise)○ Fraud (tampering with grade book, changing answers on an exam)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Chucklehead.com (buying essays from or writing essays for another)○ Recycling (submitting, without authorization, a work previously submitted (for the same or another class/course) in its majority or totality—either one's own or another's)
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A. PLAGIARISM:

- Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of another's words or ideas as your own.
- You are guilty of plagiarism if you:
 - include in your essay a passage, an identifiable phrase, or idea that you copied from someone else's work without acknowledging and documenting your source;
 - use exactly the same sequence of ideas and organization of argument as your source;
 - fail to put an author's words inside quotation marks;
 - fail to cite a source of summarized or paraphrased information;
 - use in your paper sections that have been written or rewritten by a friend or tutor;
 - use a paper you submitted for a previous class without my permission (Yes, you can be guilty of plagiarizing yourself!);
 - buy, find, or receive a paper that you turn in as your own work. (Raimes 84-85)
- When you paraphrase an idea, sentence, paragraph, or article... **CITE**.
- Changing a word or two does *not* change your obligation to **CITE**.

B. CHEATING:

- communicating with another student (or other students) concerning examination material during an examination;
- using materials (such as notes, text books, and calculators) not authorized by the instructor;
- looking at another's examination;
- seeking or offering aid during an examination;
- illegally obtaining or distributing an examination;
- any dishonest activity that would provide the student with an unfair advantage over other students

C. FABRICATION:

- includes the intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise, including (but not limited to) the following:
 - invented information used in any laboratory experiment or other academic exercise without notice to and authorization from the instructor;
 - lack of acknowledgement of reliance upon the actual source from which cited information was obtained;

- altering or resubmitting returned academic work without notice to the instructor

D. ADDITIONAL FORMS of ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

- providing false or misleading information to gain access into a university or university program;
- theft of lecture notes, research work, computer files, or academic materials prepared by another student or instructor;
- the alteration or falsification of records, computer files, or any document relating to a student's academic performance;
- altering answers on a returned examination;
- sharing answers on a returned examination with a student yet to take the test or quiz;
- removing an examination from the examination room, when prohibited by the instructor;
- consulting or seeking the assistance of others during a "take home" examination, unless permitted by the instructor;
- providing false or misleading information with the intent to avoid or delay writing an examination, assignment, or other academic requirement;
- misrepresenting or conspiring to misrepresent the identity of a student writing an examination or engaging in any other form of assignment;
- knowingly doing anything designed to interfere with the opportunities of another person to have his or her contribution fully recognized or to participate in the academic program;
- allowing others to conduct research or prepare any work for them without advanced authorization from the instructor, including (but not limited to) services of commercial term paper companies;
- submitting substantial portions of the same academic work more than once without authorization;
- using or attempting to use personal relationships, bribes, threats, or other illegal conduct to gain unearned grades, credits, or academic privileges

V. PLEDGE:

- I have received a copy of the Academic Honesty Policy.
- I have read and understood the policy.
- I pledge on my honor that, for the duration of this course, I will uphold the principles of Academic Honesty.
- I pledge on my honor that, for the duration of this course, I will neither give nor receive unauthorized assistance for any assignment or examination.

VI. RESOURCES:

- University of Maryland
- Aristotle, Ethics, ii, 6
- Cicero in De Invent. Rhet. ii
- Thomas Aquinas Summa Theologica