

Academic Integrity and Academic Dishonesty

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What is Academic Integrity?

At ASU students are expected to “act with honesty and integrity, and must respect the rights of others in carrying out all academic assignments”

Source: <https://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity/policy/StudentObligations>

What is a violation of Academic Integrity?

“The ASU [student academic integrity policy](#) lists violations in detail. These violations fall into five broad areas that include but are not limited to:

- Cheating on an academic evaluation or assignment.
- Plagiarizing.
- Academic deceit, such as fabricating data or information.
- Aiding academic integrity policy violations and inappropriately collaborating.
- Falsifying academic records. ”

Source: <https://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity/defined>

Possible sanctions for violations of Academic Integrity

Sanctions can include:

- Entry into CLAS' Academic Dishonesty database;
- Reduced or failing grade for assignment;
- Reduced or failing grade for an evaluation;
- Reduced or failing grade for a course;
- Engaging in Community service;
- Receiving an XE (failing for Academic Dishonesty) for the course;
- Withdrawal of credit for a previous course or requirement;
- Removal from the School, College, Major, or program of study permanently or for a specified period of time.

See : <https://provost.asu.edu/sites/default/files/AcademicIntegrityPolicyPDF.pdf>

What is plagiarism?

It “Means using another's words, ideas, materials or work without properly acknowledging and documenting the source. Students are responsible for knowing the rules governing the use of another's work or materials and for acknowledging and documenting the source appropriately.”

Source: <https://provost.asu.edu/sites/default/files/AcademicIntegrityPolicyPDF.pdf>

Exploring Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when students:

- Copy work from another source and present it as their own;
- Do not properly acknowledge and document original sources;
- Do not understand how to correctly cite original sources;
- Do not understand when quotation marks are required;
- Copy online material and present it as their own;
- Use another student's work and present it as their own;
 - This includes:
 - Papers
 - Projects
 - Discussion Forum posts
- Pay or barter someone to complete assignments and present it as their own;
- Do not allow sufficient time to complete assignments and make poor choices as a result.

Exploring Plagiarism

- *Consider the following, exact wording from an original source:*
 - First encounters, impressions formed during those encounters, and the relational decisions generated therein have a strong and lasting influence on relationships.
Source: Sunnafrank & Ramirez, 2004, p. 361
- *A student writes:*
 - **First encounters, impressions formed during those encounters, and the relational decisions generated therein have a strong and lasting influence on relationships. (Red shows overlap)**
- *The student claims:*
 - I copied from the source and forgot to put it into my own words
- **This is plagiarism and can result in sanctions.**
 - The student did not use a citation nor quotation marks.
 - Student submitted the assignment as one's own work.
 - Students are responsible for the work they submit.

Exploring Plagiarism

- *Consider the following, exact wording from an original source:*
 - Given the genetic component to homosexuality and its concomitant reduced reproductive success, the question arises as to why such genes have not been selected against during evolution.

Source: Rahman & Wilson, 2003, p. 1343
- *A student writes:*
 - Given the genetic component to homosexuality and its concomitant reduced reproductive success, the question arises as to why such genes have not been selected against during evolution (Rahman & Wilson, 2003). (*Red shows overlap*)
- **This is plagiarism and can result in sanctions.**
 - The student *did* use a citation but *did not* use quotation marks.
 - Without the quotation marks, this reads as if the student wrote this sentence.
 - The student also did not include the page number – a typical stylistic requirement when quoting material,

Exploring Plagiarism

- *Consider the following, exact wording from an original source:*
 - Nationally representative surveys of college students suggest that many engage in high-risk sexual behaviors.

Source: Abbey et al., 2007, p. 76
- *A student writes:*
 - **Nationally representative surveys of college students suggest that many engage in high-risk sexual behaviors** (Abbey et al., 2007). (*Red shows overlap*)
- *The student claims:*
 - I thought the citation showed that it was not my own words.
- **This is plagiarism and can result in sanctions.**
 - Without the quotation marks, this reads as if the student wrote this sentence.
 - Claims of not knowing how to cite, or forgetting to cite, are not acceptable reasons for plagiarizing.

Exploring Plagiarism

- *Consider the following, exact wording from an original source:*
 - In the course of everyday life, individuals inevitably encounter conflicts of interest within their romantic relationships. Such conflicts of interest might occur on a small scale, such as deciding what to have for dinner, or on a large scale, such as deciding where to move as a couple.

Source: Ruppel & Curran, 2012, p. 508

- *A student writes:*
 - Couples experience conflict everyday. It can happen **on a small scale, such as deciding what to have for dinner, or on a large scale, such as deciding where to move** (Ruppel & Curran, 2012). (*Red shows overlap*)
- **This is plagiarism and can result in sanctions.**
 - The student made minimal changes to the original source and presented work as one's own.
 - There is extensive overlap between the original source and the student's sentence.
 - Even with the citation, this is plagiarism because the changes are minimal.

Exploring Plagiarism

- *Consider the following, exact wording from an original source:*
 - Scholars have found a consistent pattern where couples who cohabit tend to demonstrate more negative short-term and long-term relational outcomes.
Source: Willoughby et al., 2012, p. 29
- *A student writes:*
 - According to research, couples who cohabit are at increased risk for short and long term problems in their relationships (Willoughby et al., 2012).
- **This is NOT plagiarism.**
 - Proper citation gives credit to the source of the ideas.
 - The student put the concepts from the original source into own words.

Exploring Plagiarism

- *Consider the following, exact wording from an original source:*
 - Nationally representative surveys of college students suggest that many engage in high-risk sexual behaviors.

Source: Abbey et al., 2007, p. 76
- *A student writes:*
 - According to Abbey et al. (2007), “Nationally representative surveys of college students suggest that many engage in high-risk sexual behaviors” (p. 76).
- **This is NOT plagiarism.**
 - The student:
 - Correctly used quotation marks;
 - Included a citation;
 - Included the page number from the quotation.

Exploring Plagiarism

Consider: John's friend Sally has taken a course before. John shares his papers and assignments from the course to help Sally. In the first paper:

- *John had written:*
 - The impressions individuals form when they first meet someone impact relationships (Sunnafrank & Ramirez, 2004).
- *Sue writes in her paper.*
 - The impressions individuals form when they first meet someone impact relationships (Sunnafrank & Ramirez, 2004). (*Red shows overlap*)
- **Sue committed plagiarism and risk sanctions.**
 - She presented someone else's work as her own.
- **John could be charged with Academic Dishonesty and is at risk for sanctions.**
 - He aided in an academic integrity policy violation and inappropriately collaborated on Sue's assignment.

Exploring Plagiarism

Consider: Mark is retaking a course. He completed many of the assignments the first time and plans on using these again.

- Mark submits a paper from the previous semester to meet the requirements for an assignment. It is the same assignment.
- The plagiarism checking software reports a 100% match between the past and present paper.
- **Mark could be charged with Academic Dishonesty and is at risk for sanctions.**
 - Mark failed to submit an original work for the course.
 - Mark should have asked and received permission from the instructor to use previous work before submitting the paper.
 - Permission from the instructor is needed whether it is the same or a different instructor.

Exploring Plagiarism

Consider: Mary wrote a paper for a course and received a good grade on it. She has a very similar assignment in another course.

- Mary submits a paper from the first course to meet the requirements of her present course.
- The plagiarism checking software reports a high degree of overlap between the past and present paper.
- **Mary could be charged with Academic Dishonesty and is at risk for sanctions.**
 - Mary failed to submit an original work for the course.
 - Mary should have asked and received permission from the instructor before submitting the paper.

Exploring Plagiarism in the Discussion Forums

Consider: Maria's friend Tya has taken a course in a previous session. Tya shares her responses to the Discussion Forums with Maria.

- Maria submits Tya's posts to the Discussion Forum as if they Maria's original posts
- **Maria *and* Tya could be charged with Academic Dishonesty and are at risk for sanctions.**
 - Maria failed to submit original work for the assignment.
 - Tya aided in an academic integrity policy violation by providing her work from a previous session.
 - Even if the language is slightly altered, this is considered Academic Dishonesty because it was not original work.
 - This is often noticed by instructors and TA's who grade for multiple courses.

Exploring Plagiarism in the Discussion Forums

Consider: Van has read through his peers' Discussion Forum posts and decides that he likes their ideas and how they worded their statements. (Or he did not do the assignment, but must post a response.)

- Van takes parts of other students' posts to create his own. He uses different quotes from his peers to support his own points.

- **Van could be charged with Academic Dishonesty and is at risk for sanctions.**
 - Van failed to submit original work for the assignment.
 - Van used other students' work and falsely represented it as his own.
 - Even if the language is slightly altered, this is considered Academic Dishonesty because it was not original work.
 - This is often brought to the attention of the instructor by other students.

Avoiding plagiarism

- It is expected that students will submit original work to complete all assignments unless noted otherwise by the instructor or on the syllabus.
- Avoid making poor choices by allowing yourself sufficient time to complete your assignments.
- *Talk to or email the instructor **prior to completing your assignments** if you:*
 - Have doubts about what constitutes plagiarism in this course;
 - Do not know when to use quotation marks;
 - Are unsure how to cite sources correctly.

Exam Issues

- Robert, Ashley, and Alex take the same course and study together regularly.
- The exams for the course are online.
- The three take their exams at the same time in the same place so they can help each other.

- **All three students have engaged in Academic Dishonesty.**
- **All three students are at risk for sanctions.**
- **Unless stated differently by the instructor, students are expected to take exams by themselves and without the help of others.**

Exam Issues

- Katie and Bob take the same online course and study together regularly.
 - The exams for the course are online and are open for 24 hours.
 - They meet to take the exam.
 - Katie takes her exam first while Bob helps her.
 - Bob then takes his exam while Katie helps her.
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- **Both Katie and Bob have engaged in Academic Dishonesty and are at risk for sanctions.**
 - **Unless stated differently by the instructor, students are expected to take exams by themselves and without the help of others.**

Exam Issues

- Jack and Aaron take the same course and always sit next to one another during lectures.
- They sit next to each other for the first exam.
- Jack does not know the answer to some of the questions.
 - He looks at Aaron's answers.
 - He copies Aaron's answers on his own sheet.
- The instructor sees that Jack is looking at and copying Aaron's answers.
- **Both Jack and Aaron are at risk for being charged with Academic Dishonesty and are at risk for sanctions.**

Academic Deceit

- ASU's Academic Integrity policy states that academic dishonesty includes:
 - Academic deceit, such as fabricating data or information,
 - Falsifying academic records.

Source: <https://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity/defined>

Academic Deceit

- *Consider:*
 - Paul misses an exam and contacts the instructor after the exam claiming that an emergency prevented him from taking the exam.
 - The instructor asks for verifiable documentation to support Paul's claims that he experienced an emergency.
 - Paul is unable to provide verifiable documentation.
- **Without documentation, Paul is at risk for being charged with Academic Deceit and is at risk for sanctions.**
- *Instructors can ask for documentation for any emergency that a student claims interferes with completing assignments, quizzes, or exams.*
- When students claim that an emergency prevented them from completing an assignment, it is the students' responsibility to provide the documentation.

Academic Deceit

- *Consider:*
 - Sharon misses a deadline for submitting an assignment.
 - She later emails the instructor the assignment in a file claiming that technical issues prevented her from submitting it on time.
 - The instructor inspects the properties of the file which show that the file was created after the deadline.
- The technical evidence is at odds with Sharon's claims.
- **Sharon is at risk for being charged with Academic Deceit and is at risk for sanctions.**

Academic Deceit

- *Consider:*
 - After a deadline for an assignment has passed, Thomas contacts the instructor and claims that he completed the assignment on time.
 - Thomas sends the instructor a screenshot to verify his claim.
 - The instructor compares the screenshot with course records and determines that it has been altered.
- **Thomas is at risk for being charged with Academic Deceit and is at risk for sanctions.**

Academic Deceit

- The following are examples of Academic Deceit:
 - Creating stories as an excuse for not meeting a deadline or completing an exam,
 - Manipulating electronic communication including official ASU records to support one's assertions,
 - Manipulating electronic files or medium to match one's story,
 - Supplying false documents to coincide with a non-existent emergency, and
 - Falsely claiming technical difficulties prevented you from completing an online assignment.
 - These and similar acts put students at risk for being charged with Academic Dishonesty with accompanying sanctions.
- This should not prevent students from making legitimate claims with verifiable documentation.
- When in doubt, ask the instructor what types of documentation is appropriate.
- Ask before rather than after the event when possible.