

What is Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is a fundamental principle of learning and a necessary foundation for all academic institutions, particularly those dedicated to independent project-based education. Upholding these principles allows all students an opportunity to obtain confident command of material, and to receive deserved rewards and recognition. All members of the WPI community should maintain high standards of academic integrity to protect the value of the educational process and maintain the credibility of the institution.

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Education involves the search for and acquisition of knowledge and understanding, which must be evaluated by instructors. As each course/project is unique, evaluation methods may differ in different courses/projects. Thus, instructors set the context of the academic integrity policy in their own courses. Any student act that interferes with the evaluation of students' actual state of knowledge is a breach of the academic integrity policy.

The following acts are examples of academic dishonesty at WPI:

- **Cheating:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Using and submitting purchased work or any academic work that isn't yours, *including the use of ChatGPT when not explicitly permitted.*
- Using unauthorized materials or sources of information, such as a cheat sheet, preprogrammed calculator, etc.
- Copying another student's academic work
- Unauthorized communication during an examination

- **Fabrication:** Falsification, misrepresentation, or the invention of any information, data, or citation in an academic exercise.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Inventing or changing laboratory data and/or research
- Altering grades or other official records
- Citing a source in a bibliography that was not used
- Changing exam solutions after the fact
- **Facilitation:** Helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.
Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - Sharing test questions or answers from an exam, homework or lab with another student
 - Doing any academic work for another student, such as homework or tests
 - Allowing another student to copy a solution to a homework problem, exam or lab
 - Making available previously used academic work for another individual who intends to resubmit the work for credit
 - Assisting in any act of academic dishonesty of another student
- **Plagiarism:** Using as one's own the words, ideas, data, code, or other original academic material of another without providing proper citation or attribution. Plagiarism can apply to any assignment, including final or drafted copies.
Examples include, but are not limited to:
 - Misrepresenting the work of another as one's own
 - Inaccurately or inadequately citing sources
 - Paraphrasing (using the ideas of others in your own words) without citation.
- **The WPI Academic Dishonesty Policy also applies to Non-Matriculated Students, using this process.**

This webpage adapts information from the University of Oklahoma, Norman Campus, Harvard University, and other colleges and universities.