

# Academic Dishonesty: It's More Than Just Plagiarism

One way that you can be sure to uphold and protect the code of academic integrity is by having a clear understanding of what constitutes academic dishonesty. Up until now, you probably always associated plagiarism with academic dishonesty. Plagiarism is one form of academic dishonesty and constitutes the majority of the academic dishonesty cases brought to the University's attention. However, the scope of academic dishonesty is much broader and includes many areas. Below, you will find an outline of the various categories of academic dishonesty. Categories have been defined for you and examples given. Please note that although there are many examples given, this list is not inclusive of every possible form of dishonesty. It should give you a greater understanding, however, of Stony Brook's policy on academic dishonesty. Most importantly, remember that ignorance is not an excuse when it comes to academic dishonesty. It is your responsibility to know the policies regarding this important topic.

## Cheating

Using or attempting to use unauthorized assistance, materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise, or preventing, or attempting to prevent another from using authorized assistance, materials, etc. Examples include:

- Using unauthorized notes, study aids, or information on an examination.
- Altering a graded work after it has been returned—then submitting the work for re-grading.
- Allowing another person to do one's work and submitting that work under one's own name.
- Submitting identical or similar papers for credit in more than one course without prior permission from the instructors.
- Copying answers from someone else.
- Having someone else take an exam for you, or asking him or her for answers to a test.
- Stealing or having in one's possession without permission, any tests, notes, materials or property belonging to or generating from faculty, staff or students.
- Having another person do a lab assignment for you.
- Having loose papers on or around desk area can be mistaken for cheat sheets.
- Switching exams placed on desks by professor.
- Electronic devices must be turned completely off during an exam. Even if a student does not answer a ringing tone, they are still violating University Policy.

## Plagiarism

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

- Submitting material that in part or whole is not entirely one's own work without attributing those same portions to their correct source.
- Copying from any source without quotation marks and the appropriate documentation.
- Copying from any source, altering a word here or there to avoid exact quotation.
- Rewording an idea found in a source, but then omitting documentation.
- Having someone else write the paper for you.

- Copying a paper, or portion of a paper, that someone else has written.
- Cloning someone else's idea(s) without attribution.
- Submitting the wrong paper by accident.

## Fabrication

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

Examples include:

- Presenting data that was not gathered in accordance with standard guidelines defining the appropriate methods for collecting or generating data, and failing to include an accurate account of the method by which the data was gathered or collected.
- Citing nonexistent or irrelevant articles, etc.
- Fudging data to be in accord with what you think the results should be.

## Facilitating Academic Dishonesty

Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another person(s) commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Examples include:

- Working together with others on a take-home exam.
- Providing false information in connection with any inquiry regarding academic integrity.
- Taking a test for another person.
- Doing an assignment for another student.
- Willfully offering to a student, answers or information related to tests and examinations.
- Falsifying attendance records for someone not actually in the class.

## Obtaining an Unfair Advantage

Attempting to gain unauthorized advantage over fellow students in any academic exercise. Examples include:

- Gaining or providing unauthorized access to examination materials.
- Interfering with another student's efforts in any academic exercise.
- Lying about the need for an extension for an exam or paper.
- Continuing to write even when time is up during an exam.
- Stealing, destroying, defacing or keeping library materials for one's own use or with the purpose of depriving others of its use.

## Falsification of Records and Official Documents

Misrepresenting, falsification or tampering with or attempting to tamper with any portion of an academic transcript, record, etc. for oneself or for another person. This is possible grounds for expulsion even if this is your first offense.

Examples include:

- Tampering with computer records.
- Forging a faculty/staff signature on any University document for any reason.

## Unauthorized Access

Unauthorized access to computerized academic or administrative records or systems. Examples include:

- Viewing or altering computer records.
- Modifying computer programs or systems.
- Releasing or dispensing information gained via unauthorized access.
- Interfering with the use or availability of computer systems or information.