

# Introduction to Academic Integrity

Academic integrity emanates from a culture that embraces the core values of trust and honesty necessary for full learning to occur. As a student-centered public research university, the University of North Texas promotes the integrity of the learning process by establishing and enforcing academic standards. Academic dishonesty breaches the mutual trust necessary in an academic environment and undermines all scholarship.

Violations of academic integrity occur when students engage in or help others to engage in cheating, plagiarism, and comparable behaviors. Academic integrity is a serious issue for a number of reasons.

1. Cheating or plagiarizing serves short-term interest only. Even if you are able to successfully commit academic misconduct without being caught, you only suffer later on by not having learned the information, or by not having fully and earnestly engaged in the learning experience. In short, any behavior indicative of poor character only hurts you in the end. A strong moral character is incredibly valuable and cannot be taken by someone else, but only lost by your decisions and actions.
2. When academic misconduct occurs, especially if it becomes widespread, it undermines the value of your degree. Consider telling future employers you have a degree from UNT and they respond, "Isn't that the college where everyone just cheats their way through?" Your job then goes to another candidate with a degree from a more reputable institution. Be a part of making our institution excellent and your degree valuable.
3. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe. The least severe cases result in a warning and a report to a central database where your educational record will reflect the violation. Consequences escalate very quickly to failing grades on assignments, lowering your final grade, or a failing grade in the course. Furthermore, major violations are subject to additional discipline by the University up to suspension and expulsion.

Professors were students once too, and we understand the reasons that students engage in this behavior. While the reasons are very real, for each excuse there's a better response that supports not engaging in academic misconduct.

1. **Excuse:** The work is really challenging and difficult and you just don't get it. You tried to study, but it's too hard.

**Response:** *College is supposed to be challenging. Being able to rise to the challenge is what will make you a valuable commodity on the job market after graduation. Plus there are plenty of legitimate resources to assist you in rising to the occasion. Start by coming to talk to your professor - we LOVE to help students learn this stuff.*

2. **Excuse:** You're really busy. Maybe you're taking a full load and trying to hold down a job. Maybe you're really involved in a lot of different extracurricular activities. You have a lot of responsibilities and studying just didn't make the cut this time around.

**Response:** *It's true there are only so many hours in a day. Students really should treat like college like a full-time job to be successful. For students who have no choice but to work to support themselves, the reality is that you may have to scale back on your course load. Regardless of how busy you are, it doesn't justify engaging in academic misconduct. If the only way to get it done is to cheat then you're not getting it done at all.*

3. **Excuse:** This subject doesn't really hold any interest for you. Maybe you're required to take it or you just needed another 3 credits to put toward your degree.

**Response:** *You're not going to be interested in every subject equally, but there's a reason it's offered as a part of your degree. It is important to your future that you master the skills and knowledge offered in this course. Remember that in the workplace, not all assignments will hold equal interest for you either - it's still important to give each your best effort.*

Page Two

## Ethical Safeguards

Participating in this module is one way that you are working to safeguard our institution from academic misconduct. Still, because academic integrity is so important, this course employs other safeguards as well. It's easier to avoid making poor decisions when we think other people are watching, so this course includes some ethical safeguards along those lines to support positive decision making.

1. Proctored quizzes and exams.

- We use Respondus LockDown Browser with a Webcam for all quizzes or exams. The LockDown Browser is a software application that you install on your computer. To open this application you must have all other programs on your computer closed. Once you open the LockDown Browser you cannot open other programs on your computer while it's running. This helps to reduce the temptation to have notes up or search the Internet for answers. This software also uses your webcam to record you taking the assignment. This is intended to simulate the classroom experience, where faculty are present to monitor exams as they occur. The video is stored in a secure location that is only accessible by the faculty member and becomes a part of your educational record for the course. Videos are typically only reviewed if the software flags suspicious behavior. This is not intended to invade your privacy, but to reduce the temptation to use a second device or a textbook where it is not permitted. By using this software to hold students accountable it also allows for faculty to provide more time on quizzes and exams, instead of putting short time limits on exams in an effort to cut down on students looking up answers.
2. Plagiarism checkers.
- In this class we use TurnItIn to check for plagiarism. TurnItIn is utilized by colleges and universities across the country to check for plagiarism. The software creates a database of information from other papers submitted, and information found online, to crosscheck your work. The process is done to protect your confidentiality and you maintain ownership of your work. The software produces a Similarity Score that compares your work to others. As some overlap is to be expected when students are writing on the same or similar prompts, this score does not mean plagiarism has occurred. It is only used to bring faculty awareness to the possibility of plagiarism. Your faculty member will contact you if they believe plagiarism has occurred.

Page Three

# Academic Integrity Processes

If your professor is presented with information that causes them to believe you've engaged in any form of academic misconduct this will lead to an *allegation* of academic misconduct against you. This simply means you will be notified by your professor in writing, in accordance with UNT Policy, that there is reason to believe you've engaged in academic misconduct. You will have a chance to review the evidence and provide a full response in person, or in writing, before a final decision is made on the issue.

According to UNT Policy, a standard called *preponderance of the evidence*, also known as *more likely than not*, will be used to make the determination. Your professor will use this standard to make the decision once all information has been considered. For the full information regarding academic integrity processes please see the University policy (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003> (Links to an external site.)).

Page Four

# Definitions for Academic Dishonesty

This is not a complete list of definitions in the policy, but rather the most commonly occurring ones that you should familiarize yourself with.

1. **Cheating:** the use of unauthorized assistance in an academic exercise, including but not limited to:
  - use of any unauthorized assistance to take exams, tests, quizzes, or other assessments;
  - use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
  - use, without permission, of tests, notes, or other academic materials belonging to instructors, staff members, or other students of the University;
  - dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor;
  - any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage on an academic assignment.
2. **Plagiarism:** the use of another's thoughts or words without proper attribution in any academic exercise, regardless of the student's intent, including but not limited to:

- the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement or citation, or
  - the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in selling term papers or other academic materials.
3. **Facilitating Academic Dishonesty:** helping or assisting another in the commission of academic dishonesty. This includes providing information to another student that allows them an unfair advantage or has not been made available or permissible for them by the professor.
- This includes sharing information such as answers, tips, or questions from an assessment that you have taken. This is not permitted by the professor even after the assignment has closed.
4. **Fabrication:** falsifying or inventing any information, data, or research outside of a defined academic exercise. Using false information to substantiate arguments or make points in an academic assignment.

## Quiz

### Quiz Instructions

Students are to work on this assignment independently from others. This quiz is considered open-note and students are allowed to use outside resources so long as the work is done independent of peers.

These ten points don't count toward (or against) your final grade, but you cannot proceed to the course content material until you complete this module.

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#### Question 11 pts

Academic misconduct, such as cheating, is considered a victimless offense since it doesn't really hurt anyone.

Group of answer choices

True

False

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### Question 21 pts

The least severe consequence for being found responsible for violating UNT's academic integrity policy is a warning (admonition). The most severe consequence is expulsion.

Group of answer choices

True

False

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### Question 31 pts

Which of the following constitutes plagiarism?

Group of answer choices

Resubmission of a paper you wrote for another class.

Failing to provide clear and full acknowledgment of where the work came from.

Typographical errors in your reference list.

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### Question 41 pts

Sharing information with others in a GroupMe or WhatsApp type of forum is what violation of UNT policy?

Group of answer choices

Plagiarism

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty

Cheating

Fabrication

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### Question 51 pts

Videos taken with Respondus LockDown Browser during exams are widely accessible to personnel at UNT as well as outside the University.

Group of answer choices

True

False

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### Question 61 pts

Just because an allegation of misconduct has been made by my faculty member, it doesn't mean that anything is final or official yet. Students will always be given the chance to defend their position before a final decision is made.

Group of answer choices

True  
False

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### Question 71 pts

Select all of the following behaviors that count as "Facilitating Academic Dishonesty" under UNT policy.

Group of answer choices

Posting screenshots of a quiz you've taken to a messaging app.

Giving a classmate tips about which terms to study for an upcoming quiz.

Telling a classmate who hasn't taken the test yet that it's really hard.

Sharing your paper with a peer so they can get ideas.

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### Question 81 pts

It's not plagiarism unless I intentionally steal another's work or pay someone to write my paper.

Group of answer choices

True

False

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### Question 91 pts

Ethical safeguards that proctor exams and check for plagiarism are intended to support student success, reduce the temptation to cheat, and promote a standard of academic excellence regarding our school's reputation.

Group of answer choices

True

False

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### Question 101 pts

I understand what is expected of me regarding academic integrity in this online course. I agree that I will not cheat, plagiarize, facilitate the academic misconduct of others, or in any other way violate the University's policy on academic integrity.

Group of answer choices

I agree

I disagree

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