



# ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

University Hearing Board  
Office of Student Judicial Affairs  
*Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey*

# Introductions



- Presenter
- University Hearing Board
- Student Judicial Affairs

# What is Academic Integrity?

## Academic – adjective

1. Of or pertaining to a college, academy, school, or other educational institution, esp. one for higher education.

## Integrity – noun

1. Adherence to moral and ethical principles; soundness of moral character; honesty.

# Why Care About Academic Integrity?

- Quality and Reputation of Institution.
  - Career Implications
  - Graduate/Professional School Implications
- Value of Degree.
- Effects on Honest Students.
- Destruction of the Fundamental Principles of Higher Education.

# Cheating by the Numbers...

Percentage of Students Who Admit to  
Cheating at Least Once...

80%

# Cheating by the Numbers...

Percentage of Students Who Admit  
Plagiarizing From the Internet...

54%

# Cheating by the Numbers...

Percentage of Students Who Believe Their Professors or Teachers Sometimes Choose to Ignore Cheating...

47%

# Cheating by the Numbers...

Percentage of Students Who Let Someone Else Copy an Assignment in 1969...

58.3%



# Cheating by the Numbers...

Percentage of Students Who Let Someone Else Copy an Assignment in 1989...

97.5%

# Cheating by the Numbers...

According to the Gallup Poll, the Top Two Problems Facing the Country...

1. Education

2. Decline in Ethics

Ranked Over: Crime, Poverty, Taxes, Drugs, Guns, The Environment, Racism...

*Source: Gallup Organization Poll*

# Why Do Students Cheat?

- Poor time management!
- Misunderstanding about the assignment or material.
- Unaware of rules or policies.
- Incorrect information about rules or policies.
- Personal issues or emergencies.
- Pressure from friends for assistance.
- Pressure to succeed.
- Competitive academic environment.

Test Cheating – Any prohibited action during a test, exam or quiz.

Examples: Copying answers with or without consent, changing answers on graded exams and using or possessing prohibited materials.

Prohibited materials include: cheat sheets, notebooks, textbooks, calculators, cell phones, etc.

Collaboration – Working together with someone on an academic assignment. Sometimes this is permitted and other times it is not.

Common Knowledge – Common widely known facts that do not require citation. Examples: The USA has 50 States.

Citation – A documented reference identifying the sources of quotes or paraphrases in academic work.

# Definitions

Paraphrasing – Summarizing or rewording information from a source. Paraphrasing without proper citation IS plagiarism.

Multiple Submission – Reusing an academic assignment to fulfill another academic requirement without prior permission.

Fabrication – Submitting anything that is not true or real. Examples: Making up lab report results, using fake sources, citing interviews that didn't actually occur.

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty – Knowingly assisting another person with an AI violation. Examples: Allowing someone to copy from your assignment or paper, working out a way to communicate with another student during a test or exam.

Denying Others Access – Denying others access to reserved or required materials or preventing another student from completing an academic exercise. Examples: Removing reserved sources, removing class/exam postings, destroying sources, etc.

Plagiarism – Taking credit for the words or ideas of others.

Examples: Using a source without citation, failing to use quotation marks around a direct quotation, using another student's work, and "cutting and pasting" from the Internet.

Note: Professors use various programs and search engines to detect plagiarism.



# Violations

Level One – Violations that usually occur due to lack of knowledge or inexperience and only involve a small fraction of coursework.

Level Two – Violations that are more serious and usually involve a larger portion of coursework.

Level Three – Violations that involve major or essential parts of the coursework and can carry the penalty of separation from the University.

Level Four – The most serious academic violations, which can carry the penalty of permanent expulsion from the University.

# Sanctions

- Warning (Level 1)
- AI Workshop/Assignment (All Levels)
- Make-Up Assignment or Failure (Level 1 & 2)
- Community Service (All Levels)
- Disciplinary Probation (Level 1 & 2)
- Loss of Privileges (All Levels)
- Failure in the Course (Levels 2, 3, 4)
- Term Suspension (Level 3)
- Permanent Expulsion (Level 4)

# Disciplinary Process

- On September 2, 2008, a new Academic Integrity Policy was implemented.
- Under the previous policy, all academic integrity violations were handled according to the procedures described in the University Code of Student Conduct.
- Under the new policy, instructors have the authority to adjudicate Level 1 and 2 offenses involving undergraduate students. Offenses involving graduate students and Level 3 and 4 offenses are adjudicated as before.

# Disciplinary Process

- If an instructor suspects that a student has committed a Level 1 or 2 violation, he or she (or an administrator called an Academic Integrity Facilitator (AIF)) will inform the student in writing of the allegations.
- The student will have an opportunity to meet with the instructor or AIF to discuss the complaint and to present evidence and witnesses in his or her defense.

# Disciplinary Process

- If the instructor or AIF finds that there has been no academic integrity violation, the matter is closed.
- If the instructor or AIF finds that the student is responsible for the violation, he or she will recommend an academic sanction.
- If the student does not agree with the instructor's or AIF's decision, he or she has the right to appeal the finding and/or sanction to the Academic Integrity Review Committee.

# Disciplinary Process

- If an instructor suspects that a student has committed a Level 3 or 4 violation, he or she will refer the matter to an AIF for a Preliminary Review.
- The case will then be adjudicated according to the process described in the University Code of Student Conduct.

# Disciplinary Process

- For more information on the disciplinary process and the new Academic Integrity Policy, visit our websites:
  - <http://JudicialAffairs.rutgers.edu>
  - <http://AcademicIntegrity.rutgers.edu>

# The Rutgers Files

A Rutgers student took an entire term paper from a website and used the work as his own. The actual author was Irish and used several phrases common to Ireland in the work, which tipped the professor off.

Consequence: One semester suspension & failure in the course.



# The Rutgers Files

A Rutgers student allowed his friend "Jane" to cheat off of his answer sheet during an exam. Jane accepted responsibility for the cheating and said that the student was not aware that she was copying his answers. During his hearing, Jane backed out of being a witness for him.

Consequence: One year disciplinary probation, failure in the course and a 12-page paper on academic integrity.

# The Rutgers Files

A Newark Law School student collaborated with another student during the final exam in a Constitutional Law class.

Consequence: a ten-semester suspension and failure in the course. The incident will be reported to the Character and Fitness Committee of any Bar where the student applies for membership, for the rest of her life.

# The Rutgers Files

A Rutgers student hid a cheat sheet in the cover of his calculator before a physics exam. The proctor detected the unusual movement right before the exam.

Consequence: One semester suspension & failure in the course.

# The Rutgers Files

A Rutgers student changed answers on a graded exam and submitted it to be re-graded. The professor had made copies of the answer sheets prior to returning them to students.

Consequence: One semester suspension, failure in the course, & notation of the incident on the student's permanent record. If the student repeated and passed the course, the original F grade would remain in the GPA.

# The Rutgers Files

Two Rutgers students switched identities for an entire semester and completed each other's exams. A random ID check during the final exam foiled the students' plans.

Consequence: Both students were permanently expelled from the University.

# The Rutgers Files

A student submitted a plagiarized paper in a Psychology course.

Consequence: a two-semester suspension and failure in the course. The student was required to take Expository Writing I and II upon her return from the suspension. Six credits of advanced standing, transferred to Rutgers from another college, were removed from the student's transcript.

# The Rutgers Files

A Rutgers student entered a professor's office without permission and stole two copies of an exam that he was scheduled to make up. The student submitted the stolen exam during the make up period, but it turned out to be the wrong exam.

Consequence: The student was permanently expelled from the University.

# The Rutgers Files

A student submitted an English paper that was almost entirely plagiarized from another source.

Consequence: Failure in the course; a 10 - 15 page research paper on plagiarism; a presentation to a student group about academic integrity; 100 hours of community service; and a 5-page paper reflecting on the violation and what was learned from the sanctions. If the student failed to complete any of these requirements, he would have immediately been suspended for one semester.



# The Rutgers Files

A Rutgers student falsified her AP scores on three different occasions, gaining 18 college credits. The falsification was not detected until AFTER the student graduated from the University.

Consequence: The Bachelor's Degree was revoked and the student was permanently expelled.

In addition to the appropriate sanctions, violations of academic integrity can have an effect on:

- Scholarship Money/Applications
- Graduation/Degree Status
- Graduate School Admission
- Career Opportunities

# Avoiding Violations of Academic Integrity

- TIME MANAGEMENT!
- Understand the assignment completely.
- Understand your instructor's expectations regarding citation; what format should you use? (MLA, APA?) Does your instructor have different citation requirements for different types of assignment? (homework vs. research paper vs. take-home exam?)
- Understand the major citation formats and how to cite various types of sources (books, articles, websites).
- When in doubt, CITE!

# Avoiding Violations of Academic Integrity

- Request an extension if a personal issue or emergency arises.
- Request an advance review of your assignment by the professor or TA.
- Keep all academic assignments to yourself – NEVER share answers or papers!
- In the worst case scenario, turn in whatever you have as opposed to cheating.

Take advantage of the myriad of resources available to you as a Rutgers Student:

- Ask the Professor or Teaching Assistant
- Contact the Academic Department
- Consult the Writing Program (<http://wp.rutgers.edu>)
- Consult the Learning Resource Centers (<http://rlc.rutgers.edu>)
- Ask a Librarian
- Consult the Student Judicial Affairs staff (732-932-9414)

- Rutgers AI Website
  - <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>
- Student Judicial Affairs Website
  - <http://judicialaffairs.rutgers.edu>
- Rutgers Libraries Website
  - <http://libraries.rutgers.edu>
- Bibliography Generators
  - <http://www.refworks.com>
  - <http://www.easybib.com>

Help spread the word about the importance of academic integrity:

- Be a role model.
- Share information with colleagues, friends and classmates.
- Host an AI presentation for your class, residence hall or student organization.
- Join the University Hearing Board!  
(<http://hearingboard.rutgers.edu>)
- Join our Facebook Group "RUTGERS STUDENTS WHO DON'T CHEAT!"

“Integrity is one of several paths. It distinguishes itself from the others because it is the right path...and the only one upon which you will never get lost.” – M.H. McKee



**Thank You!**