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Cheating & Academic Misconduct: What Do You Have to Lose? [brochure and video]

Cady Denton

Western Kentucky University, catherine.denton@wku.edu

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HELPFUL TIPS:

What can you do to be a more responsible student and avoid academic misconduct?

- A study by Froese and his colleagues (as cited in Landau, Druen, & Arcuri, 2002) found that almost half of students plagiarized because they simply did not cite properly. **Use citation guides** to avoid unintentional academic misconduct.
- **Manage your time** wisely; give yourself ample time to prepare for a test or write a paper so you will not feel compelled to “cut corners” or cheat.
- **Know your institution’s policy** on academic integrity. Remember, knowledge may not be all that you have to lose when you are being academically dishonest.

MORE RESOURCES:

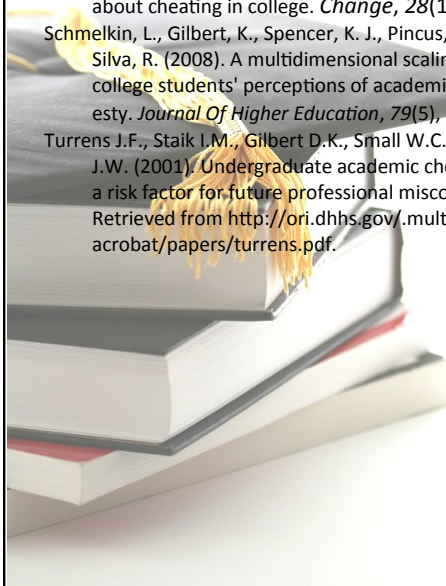
Guides and online resources

- Center for Academic Integrity academicintegrity.org
- Purdue Online Writing Lab owl.english.purdue.edu/owl
- Plagiarism.org Resource Center plagiarism.org



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CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE?



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Academic integrity involves one's own independent thoughts and ideas and proper citation for thoughts other than one's own.

Academic-integrity responsibility: "Ownership of integrity through attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that support the role of the entire academic community (individual students, cohorts, and faculty) in promoting a climate of integrity rather than simply being the responsibility of professors" (MILLER, SHOPTAUGH, & WOOLDRIDGE, 2011).



Acts considered to be academic misconduct can vary amongst institutions. Acts such as **plagiarism, purchasing papers or reports online, stealing answer keys, or copying the work of another** are widely regarded as academic misconduct. Other acts such as **sharing work/answers, using a previous test to study, or "recycling" a paper one has already written** for another class are sometimes more ambiguous (SCHMELKIN et al., 2008). Many university policies are explicit about what they consider cheating.

RESEARCH Says...



- In McCabe's (2005) three-year study of cheating patterns of college students, 36% of undergraduate students self-reported cheating in the form of plagiarism from the Internet.
- Students are admitting to cheating more often and by a wider variety of methods (McCABE & TREVINO, 1996).
- Emphasizing student responsibility for academic integrity (e.g. honor codes) has generally resulted in fewer reports of cheating (McCABE & TREVINO, 1996).
- Possible reasoning for academic misconduct is grounded in theory. Kohlberg's Moral Development Theory maintains that most individuals remain at a "conventional level" of moral reasoning from adolescence (middle school) to middle age (KOHLBERG & HERSCH, 1977). Operating at this level means that moral judgment is based highly on the "approval of others" (i.e. doing well on assignments). Conventional moral reasoning may also cause one to believe rules against cheating are "nonsensical," making compliance "morally" wrong (TURRENS et al., 2001).

Why Do Students CHEAT?

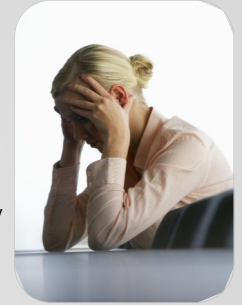
- It's the "norm" or "everyone is doing it"
- Lack of student honor code
- Benefits outweigh penalties
- Little support of policies from faculty
- Low probability of being caught
- Policies unclear
- Stress/heavy workload
- The course is "required"

ETS and the Ad Council, 1999.
www.nocheating.org



What's the WORST That Could Happen?

Some students fear the punishment of bad grades more than the consequences of cheating. What is there to lose?



Matters of academic misconduct often do not stay inside classroom walls. The matter may be reported and handled by a campus conduct officer. Sanctions can range from a failing grade to suspension from the university. It is wise to know your institution's policies.

Substantial improvements have been made in academic-integrity policies on many campuses, with modified honor codes becoming the almost prototypical model, and we are more convinced than ever that students...are willing to move forward on many other campuses.
(McCabe and Pavela, 2004)

Not only can charges of academic misconduct affect your **GPA** or your **student judicial record**, but they can affect your **credibility** and even your **reputation** (DENTON, 2012). Avoid being accused of academic dishonesty; be a responsible member of the university community!