

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

A NOTE ABOUT THE INTERNET

The internet has introduced us to a whole new world of accessing information. Articles and papers on a variety of topics are just a few clicks away. Selling academic papers on the internet has become a big business. Simply typing the phrase "term paper" into a search engine will result in hundreds of websites where students can purchase papers. Most of these sites



advertise tens of thousands of papers to review on almost every topic. There is

a great temptation for some students to pay \$9.95 or more for one of these "Guaranteed A" papers. Students don't just purchase papers on-line, but sometimes cut and paste from research or other academic sites without giving proper citation to these sources.

We have seen many cases of plagiarism from the internet here at Truman. You may want to address this issue in your classroom by reminding your students that you have access to the internet as well. If you ask your students to write papers on very specific topics, they may find it difficult to find an appropriate paper on the web. Requiring rough drafts and outlines may help to deter cheating as it shows the creative process.

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is essential to the mission of Truman State University. By creating an environment where expectations are clearly given, and consequences are clearly discussed, academic integrity can be maintained.

STARTING OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT

Your syllabus offers the ability to set a good foundation for integrity in your classroom. You should include a statement about what constitutes dishonesty in your class and a list of the possible ramifications. Below you will find some sample syllabus statements. You may use these statements on your syllabus without citation.



- Academic Integrity is an standard set for this course. Students are expected to complete all of their coursework and assignments using their original words and ideas and will properly cite the words and ideas of others. Students are expected to work alone on the exams and quizzes without the use of any outside resources. Students may not use old tests when preparing for exams, nor may they consult with students who have already taken the exam. Students are also expected to be honest in their interactions with the professor. A student found to have not upheld these expectations is subject to failing this course and being reported to the Dean of Student Affairs Office and the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- The Truman State University Student Conduct Code (8.020.01) defines the term "academic misconduct" to include, cheating, defined as using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information aids in any academic exercise; fabrication, defined as falsification or invention of any information or citation in an exercise; facilitating academic misconduct, defined as helping or attempting to help another in an act of academic dishonesty; plagiarism, defined as representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in an academic exercise..) Students caught committing an act of academic misconduct in this course will be subject to the full range of penalties including failing the project, being required to write a paper on academic integrity, failing the course. In every case, the Dean of Student Affairs Office and the Vice President for Academic Affairs will be notified.
- Plagiarism means presenting the work of others as your own work: copying material from a published text (including an online text) without giving the writer proper credit; allowing others to write or rewrite your assignments; copying the work of other students and passing it off as your own, and so on. Plagiarism is a particular problem when working with materials from the internet; it's tempting but dangerous to copy passages of online texts into your paper without attributing those passages to other writers. Giving other credit for their words and/or ideas doesn't make us trust you less; in academic writing you add to your authority by citing other sources. Plagiarism is a serious offense. It can ruin your college career. No matter how desperate you are, don't do it. Instead, ask me for help using your sources. If you do commit an act of plagiarism, you will fail this course and your name will be forwarded to the Dean of Student Affairs Office and the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

It is important to note that each course is unique in the assignments and, at times, in the academic integrity issues. Please amend your statement to reflect your views and expectations.

"Men are disposed to living honestly, if the means to do so are open to them."

-Thomas Jefferson

"The liberal education develops a sense of right, duty and honor."

-Charles W. Eliot

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

-Henry Adams

If you encounter an incident of academic misconduct, contact your Division Head or the Campus Judicial Officer, Victoria Burke in the Dean of Student Affairs Office at 785-4111

This newsletter was developed to assist faculty in dealing with the serious issue of academic integrity.

Contributions and idea suggestions are welcome.

Please contact Victoria Burke, the Assistant to the Dean of Student Affairs, with your comments. She may be reached at 785-4111, in 112 Kirk Building or at vicburke@truman.edu

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR INTEGRITY (CONTINUED)

TAKING THE NEXT STEP

A well-written statement about academic integrity on your syllabus can open the door to a useful discussion in your classroom. Ask your students their perspectives of integrity. You may find that some of your students use a different definition for cheating or you may find that your students do not know what plagiarism really is. Our new students may not understand the standards we have here at Truman. Discuss any special policies you have for assignments or in testing situations. In addition, mentioning the positive aspects of integrity and ethics in your discipline early in your class will help set a constructive tone for the semester.

CONTINUING DOWN THE PATH

There are many opportunities throughout the semester to address integrity. For instance, at the beginning of an exam or quiz, remind your students that they are expected to do honest work. When assigning an essay, remind your students how they can properly use citations for their sources.

TOP 10 PLACES TO HIDE A CRIB NOTE

10. Tucked under a the brim of a baseball cap.



9. Slid under a watch face.

8. Encrypted in the calculator memory.



7. Written on the bottom of a shoe.

6. "Tattooed" on the side of an arm or leg.

5. Taped to the inside bottom edge of a shirt.

4. Typed into the screen of a cell phone.

3. Carved into the side of a pencil.

2. Hidden in a tissue.

And the number one place...

1. Hiding a friend under your jacket.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Some interesting issues are raised when one examines international students and their understanding of academic integrity. Many of our international students come from cultures that accept and sometimes encourage acts which Americans may define as academic misconduct. In cultures where the community is valued above the individual,

students study and write papers in groups. In this type of culture, students will frequently turn in papers with similar phrasing or duplicate paragraphs. Many cultures allow their students to use the words or ideas of another without any citation. This action may even be viewed as a compliment to the original writer, even if they are not acknowledged.

Students who are not native English speakers

struggle at times with phrasing their thoughts in papers. These students may be tempted to plagiarize passages that reflect what the student would have written if they possessed the proficiency to express themselves as easily in English.

Although it is important to be sensitive to our international students' perspectives, it is essential that your students understand the academic con-

ventions in your classroom. International students may need to have a more thorough definition of cheating, plagiarism, proper citations, and group work. Let your international students feel welcome to seek clarification throughout the semester. Encourage your students for whom English is a second language to use University resources, such as the Writing Center or the tutoring service available through the International Students Office.

