



Date: October 23, 2023

To: Andre Avramchuk Chair, Academic Senate

From: Jane Gauthier, Chair Educational Policy Committee

Copies: M. Hawley, C. Pugh, K. Fisher, R. Roquemore

Subject: **EPC Memo 23-04: Proposed Modification – Academic Honesty Policy - Chapter V of the Faculty Handbook (EPC 22-11)**

During AY 2022-23, EPC discussed possible changes to the Academic Honesty Policy to bring it more in line with recent technological developments. First, online examinations have become more common, even in face-to-face courses, providing unique opportunities for cheating. EPC discussed examples of students taking online exams outside of the intended proctored setting (i.e., in the classroom or in OSD), and language reflecting this possibility was added to Section A of the policy.

Second, EPC discussed Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its implications for instruction. Although it is clear that AI is beginning to be used as a learning tool in the classroom, it is also a potential source of plagiarism. As a result of this discussion, EPC decided there was a need to add language regarding AI to the Academic Honesty Policy. This language is placed in Section B of the policy, which focuses on plagiarism, because it specifically refers to “using ideas, words, or work of another source as if they were one’s own.” This addition to the list of plagiarism examples refers only to using AI without instructor approval so that it does not restrict instructor use of AI in instruction or assignments.

The Educational Policy Committee (EPC) reviewed and recommended the following changes to the Academic Honesty policy found under Instructional Policies in the Faculty Handbook.

Academic Honesty

Lines 44-45: Added an example of cheating regarding taking an online exam outside of the intended proctored location.

Lines 68-69: Added example of plagiarism regarding using AI without prior instructor approval.

Academic Honesty

(Senate: 7/25/00, 7/27/04, 10/23/07, 6/1/10, 11/12/13, 6/2/15, 2/11/20; President: 2/5/01, 11/24/04, 11/29/07, 6/21/10, 3/19/14, 10/13/15, 7/24/20; Editorial Amendment: 8/01, 09/09)

Governing documents: Executive Order 1098, Student Conduct Procedures

Preamble

The University in its quest for truth and knowledge embraces honesty and integrity. These fundamental values must not be compromised. The trust within our community and society needs to be vigilantly protected. Cheating and plagiarism can be neither justified nor condoned, as this would destroy the ideals and purposes of higher education. Students enter our University to gain the knowledge and tools necessary for contributing positively to society. Academic integrity is critical to building trust and honesty in our community and society. Therefore, the University takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic honesty.

I. Definitions

A. Cheating

At Cal State L. A., cheating is defined as the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, fraudulent, or unauthorized means. Some courses may require that you gather evidence from outside sources in order to complete assignments. These sources should be properly referenced and cited. However when students submit work for academic credit, they are claiming it is their own original work based on knowledge and understanding obtained through course instruction and by the student's own effort. Submitting work that is in violation of this claim or using materials that are not permitted by the instructor is unauthorized. Unless explicitly provided permission by the instructor, work that comes from other sources, including other students, coursework from previous semester's websites, and digital media is considered unauthorized. Academic work encompasses assignments, practicum, examinations, including comprehensive examinations, and theses as part of a course or degree program at the University. The following examples are intended to be representative, but not all-inclusive:

a. Examinations

- Copying from another student's work
- Employing signals to obtain answers from or provide answers to others
- Knowingly obtaining, possessing, or reviewing an unauthorized copy of an examination, or attempting to do so
- Using any materials, such as lecture notes or textbooks, including digital media, during an examination when unauthorized. Unauthorized materials could include data stored on calculators, phones, or other electronic or digital devices and media
- Possessing crib notes at the location and during the time of the examination
- Attempting to receive an excused absence under false pretenses to avoid taking an examination at the scheduled time
- Obtaining assistance in answering questions on a take-home examination, unless explicitly authorized
- Attempting to use or using bribery to obtain an undeserved grade

- Changing an answer on a graded test and claiming the student's response to the question was incorrectly marked wrong
- TAKING AN ONLINE EXAMINATION OUTSIDE OF AN INTENDED PROCTORED ENVIRONMENT WITHOUT PRIOR INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL

b. Assignments and Other Coursework

- Copying the work of other persons in whole or in part and claiming authorship
- Submitting work obtained from any source that provides unauthorized materials
- Submitting work that is not one's own
- Submitting the same work to two or more different instructors for credit in their courses without their prior permission
- Inventing, falsifying, or altering data for submitted work
- Fabricating bibliographic references

B. Plagiarism

At Cal State L. A., plagiarism is defined as the act of using ideas, words, or work of another source as if they were one's own, without giving proper credit to the original sources.

The following examples of plagiarism are intended to be representative, but not all-inclusive:

- Failing to give credit via proper citations for others' ideas and concepts, data and information, statements and phrases, and/or interpretations and conclusions
- Failing to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or a part thereof
- Paraphrasing the expressions of thought by others without appropriate quotation marks or attribution
- Assembling parts from various works and submitting the synthesis or single paper as one's own creation
- Representing another's artistic/scholarly works, such as musical compositions, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings, sculptures, or similar works as one's own
- USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)-GENERATED MATERIAL IN AN ASSIGNMENT OR EXAM WITHOUT PRIOR INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL

C. Misrepresentation

Knowingly furnishing false academic information to a University official, faculty member, or campus office is subject to discipline for academic dishonesty.

The following examples are intended to be representative, but not all-inclusive:

- Providing fraudulent transcripts
- Providing fake letters of recommendation
- Falsely marking hours or attendance for a practicum
- Taking an examination in place of another individual
- Asking or arranging for someone to take an examination in one's own place
- Misrepresenting the authorship of any submitted work

D. Collusion

Any student who intentionally helps another student perform any of the above acts of cheating, plagiarism or misrepresentation is subject to discipline for academic dishonesty.

The following examples are intended to be representative, but not all-inclusive:

- Sharing course materials or examinations or solutions with other individuals without authorization
- The sharing and/or uploading of instructor-provided course materials (e.g., assignments, exams, quizzes, etc.) to student groups and/or digital media outlets, including external resources sites (e.g., Course Hero, Chegg, Quizlet, Studypool, Google Drive, etc.) without the written permission of the instructor
- Asking or arranging for someone to take an examination in one's own place

II. Consequences and Sanctions

Violations of academic honesty have a dual aspect, constituting both a breach of ethics and a form of academic non-performance. Hence the consequences of violating this policy may fall into two categories. Addressing the violation as an academic matter does not preclude the imposition of further administrative sanctions.

Academic Consequences:

Faculty have the right to establish the standards by which the academic performance of students will be evaluated, including the consequences of students not meeting some portion or all of the academic requirements of a course through acts of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation or collusion. These consequences may include but are not limited to assigning a lowered grade, zero or "F" on an individual assignment, or lowering the student's grade or assigning an "F" in the course. Faculty may alternatively permit the student to repeat an assignment/test or complete and submit additional assignments. However, before these consequences can be effected, the faculty member shall follow the reporting procedures outlined in section III.

Administrative Sanctions:

In addition to academic consequences imposed by faculty members or other reporting parties, the University can impose administrative sanctions. Cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation or collusion, in connection with an academic program or campus are subject to the Student Conduct Code and may warrant actions such as, but not necessarily limited to,

- Expulsion
- Suspension
- Probation
- Withdrawal of a degree
- Restitution

Although sanctions can be imposed for a single offense, repeat offenders will receive particular consideration for administrative sanctions. Multiple offenses committed in more than one course, even when discovered simultaneously, shall be considered repeat offenses.

III. Reporting Procedures

For the purposes of reporting findings of academic dishonesty, the 'reporting party' may refer to a probationary, tenured or temporary faculty member, a librarian, a person in an academic administrative position, a counselor, coach, administrator of a testing center or another person in a position of authority

over a student's academic work. Throughout this policy, the term 'faculty member' shall be used to stand in for any reporting party. Teaching assistants, graduate assistants and staff should report allegations of academic dishonesty to their authorized university supervisor. Allegations shall be made against individual students rather than groups of students.

When a faculty member suspects that a student has committed an academically dishonest act, it is the faculty member's responsibility to take the following steps:

1. The faculty member must first carefully consider the evidence of the apparent dishonesty. A perception that is not supported by reasonable evidence, will not suffice. Examples (not necessarily comprehensive) of evidence sufficient to pursue action are:

- Documentation regarding the source of text which the student has used without proper attribution or has attempted to represent as his/her own work
- A demonstrably marked difference in the writing style of the student, as compared to his/her work on previous assignments
- Testimony from others regarding a student's use of dishonest means to fulfill the assignment at hand
- Firsthand observation of the student engaging in a dishonest act, in a situation in which the student cannot effectively deny that the act took place
- Admission by the student that he or she undertook a dishonest act in fulfillment of the assignment at hand
- A suspicious degree of similarity in work done by different students

Faculty members are encouraged to discuss any perception of dishonesty and the evidentiary basis for an action with their department/division chair or school director and/or associate dean prior to discussing perceptions of wrongdoing with the affected student.

2. When satisfied that a reasonable evidentiary standard has been met and as soon as possible after discovering the alleged violation, the faculty member should arrange an office conference in order to inform the student of the allegations and the intended academic consequences of the violations. At the conference, the student should be informed of the supporting evidence, the intended academic consequences, and the Academic Honesty Policy.

In the event that the student disputes the findings of academic dishonesty, he or she shall be given the opportunity to respond (orally or writing). The faculty member must consider any information or evidence that the student presents during or after the conference, and determine whether or not such information or evidence mitigates or refutes the charge of academic dishonesty. In every case the student shall have ten (10) days beyond the date of the conference to respond to the allegations, before a report is made (as outlined in #3, below).

At the conference, the student should also be informed of the University's Grade Appeals/Academic Grievance Policy. Under that policy, the student may appeal the determination that he or she has committed academic dishonesty, the academic consequences stemming from such a determination. Administrative sanctions may be appealed through the CSU Student Conduct Code.

3. If after consideration of all evidence (including any provided by the student), it is determined that a preponderance of the evidence favors a finding of academic dishonesty, the faculty member shall proceed as directed below.

The faculty member shall report the finding of academic dishonesty to the Vice President for Student Life or designee and the Student Conduct Administrator via The On-Line Academic Dishonesty Report Form. This report shall be the statement of charges against the student and the record of the academic consequence(s) imposed; all supporting documentation shall be attached to the form and made available to the student. If a student appeals a grade or other adverse consequence of an allegation of academic dishonesty, this report and the related documentation shall be subject to review.

In cases where the student fails to attend the scheduled conference to discuss the alleged dishonesty, or when the alleged dishonesty is detected at the close of the quarter and the faculty member has not been successful in a good-faith effort to contact the student, an Academic Dishonesty Report Form describing the alleged incident and documents supporting the allegation shall be submitted on-line to the Vice President for Student Life or designee and the Student Conduct Administrator and made available to the student.

In cases where the faculty member cannot, for serious and compelling reasons, participate in any one or more parts of the above process, the department/division chair or school director shall represent the reporting party.

IV. Confidentiality

All parties to the initial conference between a faculty member and a student accused of academic dishonesty and all subsequent deliberations regarding incidents of academic dishonesty have the right to expect that such deliberations will occur in a setting of strictest confidentiality.

Concomitant with this right of confidentiality is the obligation of all parties to refrain from any discussions of these issues regarding cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation or collusion outside of the informal and formal conferences and meetings as outlined elsewhere in this document and in related policies (including the Grade Appeal/Academic Grievance Policy). Confidentiality shall be maintained unless a legitimate need to know is established by the department/division chair or school director in order for the faculty to complete their responsibilities as University employees or in any legal action, and in a manner consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (Student Records Administration - 011, Sec 5.8) and any other applicable law. The department/division chair or school director may consult with, or request documentation of a student's history of academic dishonesty from the Student Conduct Administrator only on a strict need to know basis. Violators of this principle of confidentiality are themselves subject to university disciplinary action.

In the matter of student records and according to Federal and State privacy laws, students have the right to protections against improper disclosure of personal information. However, it is permissible for transcripts of student academic records to contain information regarding a student's academic status including such disciplinary actions as suspension or expulsion. Suspension of one academic year or

201 more shall be entered on the student's transcript permanently without exception; this requirement shall
202 not be waived in connection with a settlement agreement.

203 **Threats/Retaliation:**

204 Any threats or acts of retaliation against any member of the faculty or staff as a consequence of
205 implementing this policy on Academic Honesty will be cause for disciplinary action under section 41301,
206 Title 5, California Code of Regulations, in addition to civil and criminal liabilities.

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