



University Policy Statement

UPS 300.021

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating on examinations or assignments, unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, falsification/fabrication of university documents, any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor), assisting or allowing any of these acts, or the attempt to commit such acts.

Cheating is defined as the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive, fraudulent, or unauthorized means. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: using notes or aides (including electronic devices) or the help of other students on tests and examinations in ways other than those expressly permitted by the instructor, or any acts which defeat the intent of an examination, plagiarism as defined below, and collaborating with others on any assignment where such collaboration is expressly forbidden by an instructor. Violation of this prohibition of collaboration shall be deemed an offense for the person or persons collaborating on the work, in addition to the person submitting the work. Documentary falsification includes forgery, altering of campus documents or records, tampering with grading procedures (including submitting altered work for re-grading), fabricating lab assignments, or altering or falsifying medical excuses or letters of recommendation.

Plagiarism is defined as the act of taking the work (words, ideas, concepts, data, graphs, artistic creation) of another whether that work is paraphrased or copied in verbatim or near verbatim form and offering it as one's own without giving credit to that source. When sources are used in a paper, acknowledgment of the original author or source must be made through appropriate citation/attribution and, if directly quoted, quotation marks or indentations must be used. Improper acknowledgment of sources in essays, papers, or presentations is prohibited.

The initial responsibility for detecting and dealing with academic dishonesty lies with the instructor concerned. An instructor, who believes that an act of academic dishonesty has occurred, is obligated to discuss the matter with the student (s) involved. The instructor should possess reasonable evidence with respect thereto, such as documents or personal observation. In this meeting, and throughout the process, every effort should be made to preserve the integrity of the educational relationship between instructor and student. The student should be given the opportunity to respond to the complaint. If the violation is discovered during the offering or grading of the final exam, the instructor may assign a mark of "RP" until the instructor has an opportunity for such a meeting. Also because the student may challenge the

allegation, he or she must be allowed to attend all classes and complete all assignments until the appellate process is complete. When necessary, such discussion may be conducted by telephone or electronic mail.

However, if circumstances prevent consultation with student(s), the instructor may assign an appropriate academic sanction (subject to student appeal). An instructor who is convinced by the preponderance of the evidence (the greater weight of the credible evidence) that a student is responsible for academic dishonesty, shall:

1. Assign an appropriate academic penalty, including, but not limited to: oral reprimand; "F" or "O" on the assignment; grade reduction on assignment or course; or "F" in the course. Factors to take into consideration in assigning a grade sanction include: normative sanctions for comparable acts, severity of the offense (academic gain or potential academic gain if the action had gone undetected), harm or potential harm to other students in the class, premeditation of the act.
2. Report to the student(s) involved, to the department chair, and to the Dean of Students office, Student Conduct, the alleged incident of academic dishonesty, including relevant documentation, actions taken by the instructor including grade sanction, and recommendations for additional action that he/she deems appropriate. The written report should be distributed as soon as possible, preferably within 15 calendar days from discovery, but not later than 30 calendar days after the first day of classes of the regular semester (fall or spring) following the grade assignment.

The Dean of Students office, Student Conduct, shall maintain a disciplinary file for each case of academic dishonesty with the appropriate documentation. Students shall be informed that a disciplinary file has been established and that they have an opportunity to appeal the actions of the instructor under the Academic Appeals Policy. Dean of Students office, Student Conduct may initiate disciplinary proceedings under Title 5, Section 41301 and Executive Order 1098 (<http://calstate.edu/eo>). Sanctions which may be assessed include but are not limited to: warning, probation, educational sanctions, removal from academic program, suspension, expulsion, denial of admission or enrollment in university classes including Extended Education.

When two or more incidents involving the same student occur, the Dean of Students office, Student Conduct shall initiate disciplinary proceedings. A student may appeal any sanction assessed for a charge of academic dishonesty under UPS 300.030, "Academic Appeals." If the Academic Appeals Board accepts the student's appeal then the disciplinary file will be purged. If a student does not appeal the instructor's action or if the Academic Appeal Boards rejects the student's appeal the disciplinary file will be maintained in a confidential file in the Dean of Students office, Student Conduct for a minimum of seven years. Disciplinary probation and suspension are noted on the student's academic record during the term of the probation or suspension. A permanent notation will be made on a student's academic record if he or she is expelled from the university. A second academic integrity violation usually results in suspension from the university for a period of time.

In order to facilitate due process and to insure that a student knows that academic dishonesty is subject to action, this policy shall be published in the *Catalog and Student Handbook*. Copies of this policy shall also be available in every department office, the Dean of Students office, and in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Source: Academic Standards Committee
Student Academic Life Committee

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and ASD 15-80