

Academic Integrity and Ethics

UBIS requires all students to be honest in their academic work and assignments. Academic dishonesty is viewed as an ethical issue and a serious violation of the principles expressed in the University's mission statement. Academic dishonesty defrauds everyone who depends upon the integrity of the University, its courses and its degrees.

UBIS is committed to observing strict rules regarding student integrity. As such, UBIS will not tolerate plagiarism or any other form of cheating. Students who are caught cheating or plagiarizing will be reported to the Dean's office. The report will go into the student's academic records. The first instance will result in an official warning from the Dean's office. The second instance will be cause for dismissal from the course. Three instances of cheating or plagiarism (in different courses) will result in dismissal from the University.

Academic dishonesty may take many forms, and each is considered an equally serious offense. The more common forms of academic dishonesty are:

- Cheating – Cheating includes the intentional giving or receiving (or attempts thereof) of any assistance not authorized in advance by an instructor, including the use of notes, copying or prior knowledge of examination materials.
- Fabrication – Fabrication includes the intentional falsification or invention of any information for inclusion in a written paper or project.
- Plagiarism – Plagiarism includes the intentional use or representation of the thoughts, ideas, or words of another as one's own work in any assignment including the paraphrasing of information, the duplication of an author's words or ideas without identifying the source, and the failure to cite quoted material properly.
- Duplication of Materials – Academic integrity extends to the appropriate duplication of the materials of others that are under copyright protection. Faculty and students are required to comply with all copyright restrictions in the use of materials within the classroom and in reports and presentations.

Students, faculty, and staff must also be cognizant of and avoid copyright infringement. Copyright infringement is using someone else's ideas or material, which may include a song, a video, a movie clip, a piece of visual art, a photograph, and other creative works, without authorization or compensation, if compensation is appropriate. The use of copyright material without permission is against federal law, and penalties may include fines and/or imprisonment.

As a consequence of expanded availability of digitized files and computing, peer-to-peer file sharing has become commonplace. UBIS requires students to respect local laws regarding copyrighted material and file sharing networks. In addition, UBIS reserves the right to revoke the Information Technology privileges of those using or contributing to illegal activity as defined by local laws.

The concept of "Fair Use" applies, and the limited reproduction of copyrighted works for teaching and research purposes *may* be permitted. Multiple copies for classroom use may be produced provided the copies are not sold or distributed beyond classroom use and provided such duplication is specifically for a direct educational purpose. This statement does not restrict the limited duplication of copyrighted materials through the University's purchased online databases. Should questions exist regarding the duplication of materials, academic advice should be sought before materials are copied.

Faculty and students may face civil or criminal charges if they are found to be contributing to illegal activity as defined by local laws.

While intent is a component of academic dishonesty, a lack of knowledge of the specifics as to what constitutes a violation of the University's standards is not accepted as an excuse. Any questions regarding the specific application of the Academic Integrity Policy should be directed to an instructor.

In cases involving charges of academic dishonesty made either by an instructor or another student, the instructor shall present the evidence in the case to the Academic Dean, or designee, as appropriate. If there is any sound reason for believing that there has been an act of academic dishonesty, the Academic Dean or designee consults with the student involved. The Academic Dean or designee imposes the appropriate penalty and notifies the student in writing. The student, in writing, will acknowledge the penalty. At a minimum, a grade of "F" is assigned to any assignment, paper or test on which a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy has occurred. Repeated violations may result in the student being dismissed from the institution.