

JCGS ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

The Administration and Faculty of the Jefferson College of Graduate Studies believe that academic integrity is one of the most important values and behaviors that should be practiced by students during their studies. Because we are committed to training future scientists and educators who perform the highest quality of research, the College Administration and Faculty are equally committed to mandating and enforcing the practice of academic integrity by all students. The following policy on academic integrity defines dishonesty and describes the procedures for responding to charges of academic dishonesty in the College.

Forms of Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism

As stated in the American Medical Association Manual of Style, “in plagiarism, an author passes off as his or her own the ideas, language, data, graphics or even scientific protocols created by someone else, whether published or unpublished.”

When a student submits work for credit that includes the words, ideas or data of others, the source of that information must be acknowledged through complete, accurate and specific references, and, if verbatim statements are included, through quotation marks as well. By placing his or her name on work submitted for credit, the student certifies the originality of all work not otherwise identified by appropriate acknowledgments.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

1. Quoting another person’s actual words, complete sentences or paragraphs, or entire pieces of written work without acknowledgment of the source.
2. Using another person’s ideas, opinions or theories, even if they are completely paraphrased in one’s own words, without acknowledgment of the source.
3. Noting the original source of only a part of what is borrowed.
4. Borrowing facts, statistics or other illustrative materials that are not clearly common knowledge without acknowledgment of the source.
5. Copying another student’s essay test answers.
6. Copying, or allowing another student to copy, a computer file that contains another student’s assignment and submitting it, in part or in its entirety, as one’s own.
7. Working together on an assignment, sharing the computer files and programs involved and then submitting individual copies of the assignment as one’s own individual work. Students are urged to consult with individual faculty members if in doubt.

Fabrication

Fabrication is the use of invented information or the falsification of research or other findings with the intent to deceive. Examples include, but are not limited to:

1. Citation of information not taken from the source indicated. This may include the incorrect documentation of secondary source materials.
2. Listing sources in a bibliography not directly used in the academic exercise.
3. Submission in a paper, thesis, lab report or other academic exercise of falsified, invented or fictitious data or evidence, or deliberate and knowing concealment or distortion of the true nature, origin or function of such data or evidence.
4. Submitting as one's own any academic exercises (e.g., written work, printing, sculpture, etc.) prepared totally or in part by another.

Cheating

Cheating is an act or an attempted act of deception by which a student seeks to misrepresent that he or she has mastered information on an academic exercise that he or she has not mastered. Examples include but are not limited to:

1. Copying from another student's test paper or allowing another student to copy from a test paper.
2. Using the course textbook or other material such as a notebook brought to a class meeting but not authorized for use during a test.
3. Collaborating during a test with any other person by receiving information without authority, or collaborating with others on projects where such collaboration is not expressly permitted.
4. Using or possessing specifically prepared materials during a test, e.g., notes, formula lists, notes written on the student's clothing, etc., that are not authorized.
5. Taking a test for someone else or permitting someone else to take a test in one's place.
6. Exchanging information, e.g., through electronic (text messaging) or physical (tapping pencils or other objects) means.
7. Entering any office or opening a file to obtain a test or answer key.
8. Viewing test materials on a secretary's or faculty member's desk.

9. Passing quiz/test questions or answers from one student to another, even after the test is completed.
10. Copying a posted answer key without permission.
11. Discussing test questions or answers outside the examination room while the test is in progress.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is the intentional violation of University policies, by tampering with grades, or taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of an unadministered test. Examples include, but are not limited to:

1. Stealing, buying or otherwise obtaining all or part of an unadministered test.
2. Selling or giving away all or part of an unadministered test including answers to an unadministered test.
3. Bribing any other person to obtain an unadministered test including answers to an unadministered test.
4. Entering a building or office for the purpose of changing a grade in a grade book, on a test or on other work for which a grade is given.
5. Changing, altering or being an accessory to the changing and/or altering of a grade in a grade book, on a test, in a computer, on a “change of grade” form or other official academic records of the University which relate to grades.
6. Entering a building or office for the purpose of obtaining an unadministered test.
7. Continuing to work on an examination or project after the specified allotted time has elapsed.
8. Signing into classes for others.

Sanctions

Two possible sanctions exist for cases of academic dishonesty. Option A outlines adjudication of cases at the discretion of the faculty. Cases may also be referred directly to the JCGS Judicial Board for adjudication under Option B of these guidelines.

Option A

Option A is limited to one or more of the following, by choice of the faculty member:

- a verbal reprimand
- a written reprimand
- a grade of zero for an assignment or examination
- a requirement that the student repeat the work affected by the academic dishonesty
- a statement concerning the action to be sent to the Dean by the instructor

No notation of faculty action will appear on the student's transcript. However, the College may choose to keep documentation in the student's file and this may be taken into account if the student is involved in another incident of academic dishonesty.

When the instructor chooses to have the student repeat the assignment, the instructor will tell the student the maximum grade that may be assigned for the repeated assignment. For example, it is acceptable for the instructor to assign no more than a minimal passing grade to a repeated assignment, if successfully completed by the student.

The student may contest the instructor's allegation by requesting a hearing with the Judicial Board. Any such request must be made within five (5) working days from the time the student has been informed of the charge and the instructor's recommended resolution. The instructor's initial penalty will be considered in assessing a penalty for a guilty finding by the Judicial Board.

Option B

Direct referral of the charge by the faculty member to the Judicial Board for adjudication. Information concerning procedures for requesting a judicial hearing is found in the JCGS Catalogue (see "Judicial System").

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Note: The contents of sections on Academic Dishonesty were taken wholly or adapted in part with permission from the Academic Integrity Policy of the Jefferson College of Health Professions, Thomas Jefferson University, and the Code of Conduct policy of the Office of Judicial Affairs Office of the University of Delaware.