



Academic integrity as it applies to undergraduate students

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DEAN'S DESIGNATE ON ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Academic integrity is based on ethics specific to the academy

- ▶ The academy is basically amoral (there is no moral code)
- ▶ **But it has a strong ethics code***:
 - Honesty
 - Trust
 - Fairness
 - Respect
 - Responsibility and
 - Courage, even in the face of adversity

* As defined by the *International Centre for Academic Integrity*

U of T's code of academic offences

- ▶ Altering, forging or falsifying documents
- ▶ Possession of unauthorized aids
- ▶ Impersonation
- ▶ Plagiarism
- ▶ Submission of work for which credit was previously obtained
- ▶ Submission of work containing purported statements of fact or references to concocted sources
- ▶ Altering, forging or falsifying an academic record
- ▶ Misconduct to obtain academic credit or advantage
- ▶ Assisting another student in committing an offence

But it is also an offence to:

- ▶ Alter a student record
- ▶ Give a student an unfair advantage
 - ▶ Admissions
 - ▶ Marking exams and assignments
- ▶ **To ignore a student offence is contrary to the values of academia**

Most common offences

- ▶ Plagiarism, including self-plagiarism
- ▶ Cheating on a quiz or exam
- ▶ Unauthorized aids in a quiz or exam
- ▶ Submission of work performed by someone else
- ▶ Allowing someone else to use your work

When is an offence handled at departmental level?

- ▶ Years 2 – 4, and
- ▶ Work worth 10% or less, and
- ▶ First offence, and
- ▶ Student acted alone

Reporting is still required

- ▶ File with AOTT (Academic Offence Tracking Tool)

Sanctions

- ▶ **First offence, if not egregious:**
 - ▶ Letter on file
 - ▶ Reduced mark in assignment
 - ▶ Serious talk with dean's designate
- ▶ **Second, or serious offence:**
 - ▶ Zero in course
 - ▶ Notation on transcript
 - ▶ Suspension or expulsion

In particular, I want to emphasize:

- ▶ **Do not refrain to report an offence because of**
 - ▶ The student's ethnic background
 - ▶ Potential consequences for the student
 - ▶ The work involved
- ▶ The university's reputation depends on adherence to ethics
- ▶ The engineering profession depends on strict adherence to ethics
- ▶ The academic integrity process is an effective teaching tool

Recommendations

- ▶ Inform TAs of their duty to report
- ▶ Written assignments
 - ▶ Include a statement on Page 1 requiring a student signature
 - ▶ Clarify what constitutes a citation and how to write one
 - ▶ How to digest and paraphrase, and provide reference
 - ▶ Announce in course outline that Turnitin will or maybe used
- ▶ Quizzes and exams
 - ▶ Follow university recommendations

Resources

- ▶ In Quercus, every course has a link to academic integrity in the top right corner
- ▶ Fundamental values: <https://academicintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Fundamental-Values-2014.pdf>
- ▶ Strategies for instructors and students: <http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/>



Thank you

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