



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Office of the Provost

Division of Undergraduate Education & Student Affairs

Discussing Academic Integrity

The beginning of the semester is great time for faculty and instructors to remind students about the Statement of Academic Integrity and the *Code of Conduct*, which can help students understand the University's commitment to ethics in the classroom. Instructors may also take this time to address course-specific policies and how they plan to address dishonesty in the classroom.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is taking responsibility for one's own work, being individually accountable, and demonstrating intellectual honesty and ethical behavior. Academic integrity is a personal choice to abide by the standards of intellectual honesty and responsibility. Because education is a shared effort to achieve learning through the exchange of ideas, students, faculty, and staff have the collective responsibility to build mutual trust and respect. Ethical behavior and independent thought are essential for the highest level of academic achievement, which then must be measured. Academic achievement includes scholarship, teaching and learning, all of which are shared endeavors. Grades are a device used to quantify the successful accumulation of knowledge through learning. Adhering to the standards of academic integrity ensures that grades are earned honestly and gives added value to the entire educational process. Academic integrity is the foundation upon which students, faculty, and staff build their educational and professional careers. [Texas Tech University ("University") Quality Enhancement Plan, Academic Integrity Task Force, 2010]

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY CODE OF CONDUCT – ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

"Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student. **Students are responsible for understanding the principles and policies regarding academic integrity at Texas Tech University, and abide by them in all class and/or course work at the University.** If there are questions of interpretation of academic integrity policies or about what might constitute an academic integrity violation, students are responsible for seeking guidance from the faculty member teaching the course in question.

Academic integrity violations are outlined in the *Code of Student Conduct*, Part X, B3. The University policies and procedures regarding academic integrity can be found in the Student Handbook in Part II, section B and online here: www.ttu.edu/studenthandbook

COURSE-SPECIFIC POLICIES ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Faculty members and Instructors may want to address course-specific information about what is and is not appropriate in their academic community. Some things to consider are:

- Expectations about group work and collaboration on assignments, homework, and/or projects
- Common issues regarding academic dishonesty in the course
- Expectations for writing assignments and proper citation methods

ADDRESSING ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Communicate with your students how dishonesty will be addressed in your class. Remember, that the instructor of record in a course is responsible for initiating action in each case of dishonesty that occurs in that class. The instructor may contact the Office of Student Conduct to discuss the nature of the violation then attempt to discuss the matter with the student. Communicate with your class the potential academic penalties for dishonesty in your course as well as the potential for suspension or expulsion from the University.