

School of Graduate Studies

Academic Integrity: Issues for Graduate Students*

*aspects of this PowerPoint are duplicated from, and based upon, the SGS's publication "Academic Integrity: Issues for Graduate Students"

- What is Academic Integrity?
- What is Responsible Conduct of Research?

- Why is academic integrity and responsible conduct of research so important?

Graduate Students must:

- understand their multiple and intertwined roles
- embrace impeccable standards of honesty and integrity in all aspects of work
- learn how to cite the work of others and use correct style guide

- What Questions do You Have in Your Role as a Teaching Assistant?

- Instructor sets stage for fairness
- Consider your response(s) in advance
- Know the institution's policies
- Prevention

“Principles of academic integrity require that every Rutgers University student:

- properly acknowledge and cite all use of the ideas, results, or words of others
- properly acknowledge all contributors to a given piece of work
- make sure that all work submitted as his or her own in a course or other academic activity is produced without the aid of unsanctioned materials or unsanctioned collaboration
- obtain all data or results by ethical means and report them accurately without suppressing any results inconsistent with his or her interpretation or conclusions
- treat all other students in an ethical manner, respecting their integrity and right to pursue their educational goals without interference. This requires that a student neither facilitate academic dishonesty by others nor obstruct their academic progress
- uphold the canons of the ethical or professional code of the profession for which he or she is preparing.

Adherence to these principles is necessary in order to insure that:

- everyone is given proper credit for his or her ideas, words, results, and other scholarly accomplishments
- all student work is fairly evaluated and no student has an inappropriate advantage over others
- the academic and ethical development of all students is fostered
- the reputation of the University for integrity in its teaching, research, and scholarship is maintained and enhanced.
- Failure to uphold these principles of academic integrity threatens both the reputation of the University and the value of the degrees awarded to its students. Every member of the University community therefore bears a responsibility for ensuring that the highest standards of academic integrity are upheld.” <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers/>

Prevention

- Clear statements on syllabi
- Discussion on first day of class
- No surprises
- Be specific on expectations for all assignments, tests, lab reports, papers
- Use electronic tools

Preparing Tests and Assignments

- Using the same questions every year?
- Using information that can be easily copied from the web?
- Other sections of course being taught at the same time?

Cheating on Exams

- Pay attention to seating, test papers, hats, water bottles, and more
- Make your expectations clear about phones, open books, collaboration
- Be VERY, VERY clear about rules
- Indicate penalties for cheating

“If you do find clear evidence of cheating on an exam or a paper, remember that you are obligated to report the case to the faculty advisor for the class or to the department chair. You are required to report any incident of suspected academic dishonesty. The student will get a fair hearing, but if found guilty, will be penalized for this act. Cheating by a single student is eminently unfair to the others in the class; it is your obligation to protect the rights of honest students. If you do not, they in turn will feel cheated by you.”

TA Handbook, TA Project, School of Graduate Studies

“Instructors may wish to consider placing the following honor pledge on all exams and assignments: *“On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this examination (assignment).”*”

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources-for-instructors>

Role of Teaching Assistant

Your Responsibilities as a Graduate Student

Graduate Students May Never:

- Quote or paraphrase without complete citations;
- Cite a source that has been identified through a secondary source but has not been consulted;
- Copy from the internet;
- Collaborate with others without explicit permission from instructor;
- Use unauthorized materials during an examination or on an assignment;
- Look at or copy the work of another student during an exam;
- Submit the work completed in one class to fulfill the requirements of a second class with the consent of the instructor.

Graduate Students as Researchers must adhere to the ethical codes of their discipline/profession and cannot:

- Falsify/fabricate or selectively withhold data or results;
- Misuse or appropriate the data of others;
- Present data in a sloppy or deceptive manner;
- Fail to maintain accurate laboratory notebooks;
- Fail to credit all contributors and authors appropriately;
- Sabotage to research of others; Misuse research funds or institutional property for personal use;
- Develop inappropriate relationships for personal gain;
- Fail to comply with Federal Guidelines for the treatment of human or animal subjects.

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is:

- Representing the ideas or work of another as one's own.
- Electronic access to information makes plagiarism and its detection quite simple;
- To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks;
- Must acknowledge the work of others with citations.

Academic Integrity Policy

“Sanctions for a given violation may be imposed differently on those with more or with less experience as students. Thus violations of academic integrity by graduate students³ will normally be penalized more severely than the same violations by inexperienced undergraduate students. In particular, violations that would be considered nonseparable for an undergraduate student may be treated as separable for a graduate student.”

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>

³ “In this policy, the term graduate student refers to post-baccalaureate students pursuing advanced degrees of any type or enrolled in a graduate course or courses. The term also includes students in the advanced stages of a professional program that leads to a masters or doctoral degree without conferral of a baccalaureate degree.

Consequences

- Disciplinary Probation
- Failure in the course
- Loss of Financial Support
- Suspension of Student Status
- Removal from Rutgers

QUESTIONS

