

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

(from Student Code of Conduct and Community Expectations)

At St. Catherine University, we expect academic integrity from our community members. Academic integrity assumes honesty about the nature of one's work in all situations. Such honesty is at the heart of the educational enterprise and is a precondition for intellectual growth. Academic dishonesty is the willful attempt to misrepresent one's work, cheat, plagiarize, or impede other students' academic progress.

Academic dishonesty interferes with the mission of the University and will be treated with the utmost seriousness as a violation of community standards. The process for investigating and resolving suspected cases of academic dishonesty differs from the procedures for non-academic violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

Forms of academic dishonesty include:

1. Dependence upon the assistance of others beyond that which is expressly approved by the instructor in writing papers, preparing laboratory reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments.
2. Plagiarism. Plagiarism is the use, whether by paraphrase or direct quotation, of published or otherwise recorded materials or the unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. This includes purchasing or acquisition of papers and other materials online through "term paper mills," but also any appropriation of another's work for use without attribution.
3. Cheating on quizzes, tests, any kind of assessment or examinations by:
 - a. Referring during the examination to books, papers, notes, and electronic devices not specifically authorized by the instructor.
 - b. Receiving during the examination information from another person or communicating information to another person or attempting to receive or communicate information.
 - c. Using a substitute to take a quiz, test or examination or acting as such a substitute.
 - d. Buying, selling or stealing a copy of an examination in advance of its administration or referring to such an examination after it has been obtained by another.
 - e. Obtaining through any means the tests of a professor that he or she normally does not let circulate.
 - f. Participating in or attempting to practice any other form of deceit on a quiz, test, paper, speech or assignment of any kind.
4. Permitting another student to use one's work as his or her own
5. Mutilating, stealing, hiding or illegally removing or keeping St. Catherine University library materials or materials made available for student use by a faculty member or a college
6. Using generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT) on assignments without permission, in improper ways, or without citation or affirmation is considered a violation of the St. Catherine University academic integrity policy.

Sanctions

Instructors are responsible for determining whether academic dishonesty has occurred. Instructors shall proceed with sanctions accordingly. Any act of academic dishonesty that results in one of the sanctions below **must** be reported formally to the University. The report will be sent to the Office of the Provost.

Cases of unintentional plagiarism may be dealt with through educational procedures such as further assignments requiring the student to practice documentation and citation methods, or other means determined by the instructor.

Acts of academic dishonesty will be subject to one or more of the following sanctions:

1. reduced grade on the assignment, i.e. exam, paper, lab report, etc.
2. failure of the assignment, i.e. exam, paper, lab report, etc.
3. failure of the class
4. suspension or expulsion

An instructor may impose the first three of these penalties. Suspension or expulsion may only be carried out by the Office of the Provost. Repeated acts of academic dishonesty will result in suspension or expulsion. When academic dishonesty has been determined to have occurred a second time, the Office of the Provost shall decide on the student's status at the University.

Procedure

The process for investigating and resolving suspected cases of academic dishonesty differs from the procedures for non-academic violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

1. When an instance of academic dishonesty is suspected, the instructor will meet with the student to discuss the incident and will decide which, if any, of the above sanctions is appropriate. In this meeting, the instructor will share concerns and review any documentation related to the suspected violation.
2. If no violation is established, the faculty member should have a discussion with the student about the reasons for the suspicion, and discuss general issues of integrity.
3. If academic dishonesty is confirmed, the instructor will submit the Academic Integrity Form through Maxient along with relevant documentation.
4. The student will be notified of the alleged violation and proposed sanction within three business days of faculty submission of the Academic Integrity Form. The student will be required to accept or contest the allegation(s) and/or sanction(s) using the Academic Integrity Resolution Form. The student will have three business days from the date on the original notification letter to submit this form. Students may meet with the Provost's Office staff to discuss their options. If the student does not return the signed referral form, sanctions imposed by the instructor will stand.
5. If the student accepts the allegation(s) and/or sanction(s), the student will receive a letter providing a formal conclusion to the academic integrity referral. This letter will remain on file for seven years. Additionally, the Office of Student Affairs will be notified of the substantiated incident of academic dishonesty. Information in the file will be confidential, to be shared only at the discretion of the Provost for a legitimate educational or legal purpose.

6. In situations where there are prior violations, egregious violations, and/or where the student contests the allegation(s) and/or sanction(s), the Provost's Office will assume responsibility and oversight of the case and a hearing will be conducted to resolve the matter. See below for Hearing Procedures.

Hearing Procedures

A hearing may be warranted in cases where the student has a prior confirmed academic integrity violation, is alleged to have committed an egregious act of academic misconduct, or contests the allegation and/or sanction. At that point, the Academic Integrity Committee will review available documentation in the case and speak with all parties involved. Students may consult with the Provost's Office throughout the process. Upon conclusion of this hearing process, the Office of the Provost will render a decision and send a letter to the student within ten business days of receipt of the faculty member's report. The letter will reiterate the incident, describe the outcome, and inform the student of their right to limited appeal. The report and letter from the Office of the Provost will remain on file until seven years after the incident. Information in the file will be confidential, to be shared only at the discretion of the Provost for a legitimate educational or legal purpose.

Appeal Process

A student may appeal a decision in an academic integrity case only when (1) there is new evidence available or (2) when the procedures described above were not followed properly. An appeal must be submitted within five business days of receiving the Provost's letter of notice by emailing an academic grievance form to the Office of the Provost requesting an appeals hearing.

The Academic Integrity Committee will hear the appeal within ten business days of receipt of the request for appeal. The appeal process will include (1) review of all materials in the academic integrity report and (2) consideration of new details presented at the appeal meeting itself. The Academic Integrity Committee review will be facilitated by the Assistant Vice President for Academic Success and can be held virtually or in person. The student may choose to have a support person present at the hearing but this person may not speak on their behalf. The student and the instructor will each present their version of events.

A majority vote of attending members of the Academic Integrity Committee is necessary to uphold or overturn findings and/or sanctions. For the purpose of this committee, a quorum will be defined as four members. If a finding is upheld but a sanction is overturned, the Academic Integrity Committee may impose a lesser sanction. The Committee will submit a written finding, which will be sent to the student and the faculty member(s) involved in the case and will become part of the student's file. Upon conclusion of this hearing process, the decision rendered is *final* and the Office of the Provost will send a letter to the student within ten business days of receipt of the report from the Academic Integrity Committee Chair. The letter will reiterate the incident, describe the outcome, and inform the student of their right to limited appeal. The report and letter from the Office of the Provost will remain on file until seven years after the incident. Information in the file will be confidential, to be shared only at the discretion of the Provost and Dean of the Faculty for a legitimate educational or legal purpose. If the appeal's outcome is to overturn the dishonesty charge, the filed report will be removed.