

## Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is the commitment and demonstration of open, honest, and responsible pursuit of scholarly activity. Academic dishonesty is the purposeful attempt to gain through violating these core principles. Common examples of academic dishonesty include cheating on tests, quizzes, oral presentations, and general coursework. Common examples of cheating include copying from another student's work, using materials or platforms not authorized during a test or for an assignment, not honoring proctoring system rules, allowing someone to copy your work (including research data or any other assignment), stealing, selling, buying, or other unauthorized use or sharing of content or work to fulfill an academic assignment, fabrication of data, and plagiarism. Cheating also includes submission of nearly identical work one has previously offered for credit in another course without prior approval by the instructor, altering official documents, and collaborating on assignments requiring individual work.

Breaches of academic integrity are addressed at two levels: As an academic matter and as a violation of the *Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities*. As an academic matter, breaches are addressed by the faculty instructing a course. At this level, faculty address the academic matter within their courses. Faculty base the academic consequences on the following guidelines unless instructor-specific consequences are listed in the course syllabus:

- First Offense within course: Faculty work with the student on a one-on-one basis to resolve the issue. Consideration is given to whether there is a clear intent to violate standards of academic integrity on behalf of the student or students involved. Based on student comprehension and intent, instructor discretion is used in providing appropriate coaching as well as expecting additional tutoring or other external learning resources. Instructor discretion is used in determining grading penalties. Recommended penalties range from resubmission of work, grading deductions, and up to failure on the assignment. Failure in the course may be determined for egregious first offenses. Instructors report the incident to MSU's early alert system in as much detail as possible about the incident. The early alert system reports are tracked within Academic Affairs for cumulative breaches of Academic Integrity. Faculty retain related documentation.
- Second Offense within course: Faculty report the incident to MSU's early alert system in as much detail as possible. This is used to track cumulative breaches of Academic Integrity. Faculty retain related documentation. The Vice President for Academic Affairs notifies student(s) of Policy M540.1 and potential consequences of continued breaches through the *Code of Students Rights and Responsibilities*. Faculty continue work with student(s) to resolve the issue. The student may continue to be expected to pursue tutoring and may also be referred to the Division Chair or designee if the chair is the instructor to engage in additional conversation about upholding the standards of academic integrity. The recommended academic consequence for a second offense within a course is for the student to fail the assignment and/or course as consistent with the approach used for the first offense.

- Third Offense within course: Report the incident to MSU's early alert system in as much detail as possible. This is used to track cumulative breaches of Academic Integrity. Faculty retain related documentation. The Vice President for Academic Affairs notifies student(s) of Policy M540.1 and potential consequences of continued breaches through the *Code of Students Rights and Responsibilities*. The student must meet with the appropriate Division Chair or designee if the Chair is the instructor to discuss the situation and consequences. The recommended consequence for a third offense is for the student to fail the course.

In addition to academic penalties as outlined above, breaches of academic integrity may result in action at the level of the *Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities* as violations of Part III: Prohibited Conduct, Section A: Academic Integrity. Consequences for code violations of the *Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities* follow Part IV: Student Discipline Process. Consequences may include Censure, Disciplinary Probation, Deferred Suspension, Suspension, and Dismissal.

Cumulative breaches of academic integrity, whether within a single course or across multiple courses during the student's academic career, are tracked using the MSU early alert system. Upon the reporting of a fourth offense within MSU's early alert system, the Discipline Process of the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities is initiated. The Discipline Process of the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities may be initiated prior to the fourth offense in egregious cases. While determination of the Sanction is determined through the Discipline Process, recommended sanctions are Disciplinary Probation, Deferred Suspension or Suspension, or in recurring violations of the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, Dismissal.

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**Sponsors: Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Student Affairs**