

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and Cheating

“Academic integrity is of the utmost importance.”

Definitions: Academic dishonesty consists of cheating on tests, quizzes, oral presentations, general coursework, fabrication of data, and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty also includes allowing someone else to copy your work (including research data, or any other assignment) and submit it as his or her own.

According to the Council of Writing Program (CWP) Administrators, plagiarism is defined as the following:

In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else’s language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. This definition applies to texts published in print or on-line, to manuscripts, and to the work of other student writers.

If a student is suspected of breaching academic integrity, instructors should base the consequences on the following guidelines unless instructor-specific consequences are listed in the course syllabus:

- **First Offense:** Report the incident to MSU’s early alert system in as much detail as possible. Work with the student on a one-on-one basis to resolve the issue. Instructor discretion should be used in regard to how grading penalties will proceed.
- **Second Offense:** Report the incident to MSU’s early alert system in as much detail as possible. The student should be referred to the Mayville State University Writing Center or the Division Chair, as appropriate in order to engage in a conversation about what plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty is and how to avoid it. The recommended consequence for a second offense is for the student to fail the assignment.
- **Third Offense:** Report the incident to MSU’s early alert system in as much detail as possible. 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.
- **More than Three Offences:** Report the incident to MSU’s early alert system in as much detail as possible. The student must meet with the appropriate Division Chair or designee if the Chair is the instructor, who may then refer to an appropriate Vice President or Committee. The recommended consequence for more than three offences is for the student to be put on academic suspension or administratively withdrawn and have to follow procedures to be readmitted to the university.

Note: This policy refers to cumulative academic integrity offenses across multiple courses during a student’s academic career. Therefore, it is imperative that instructors report breaches of academic integrity to MSU’s early alert system so an accurate amount of offenses can be documented.

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