

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academics is the basic value in which colleges are built. Students, faculty and staff are expected to contribute frank and honest opinions, reviews and evaluations of research, and other academic and scholarly activities that are vital to promoting discussion and exchange thoughts, ideas and opinions. Intellectual growth cannot be developed or ideas stimulated without this frank exchange among college communities. However, for academic growth to occur and thrive colleges cannot tolerate academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism or misrepresenting work.

According to *The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity* published by the Center for Academic Integrity there are five fundamental values that characterize an academic community of integrity:

- **Honesty** – “An academic community of integrity advances the quest for truth and knowledge by requiring intellectual and personal honesty in learning, teaching, research, and service.”
- **Trust** – “An academic community of integrity fosters a climate of mutual trust, encourages the free exchange of ideas, and enables all to reach their highest potential.”
- **Fairness** – “An academic community of integrity establishes clear standards, practices, and procedures and expects fairness in the interactions of students, faculty, and administration.”
- **Respect** – “An academic community of integrity recognizes the participatory nature of the learning process and honors and respects a wide range of opinions and ideas.”
- **Responsibility** – “An academic community of integrity upholds personal accountability and depends upon action in the face of wrongdoing.”

You may view the entire document at:

http://www.academicintegrity.org/fundamental_values_project/pdf/FVProject.pdf.

Academic dishonesty is the antithesis to core values and erodes the process by which knowledge is cultivated. An individual's integrity is damaged by repeated offenses, along with the encapsulated academic community.