

What is Academic Integrity?

Academic integrity is a core value of the University of Calgary. At UCalgary, academic integrity is a **commitment to, and the demonstration of, honest and responsible scholarship**. As a student, you maintain academic integrity by adhering firmly to a set of values. These fundamental values are foundational to the International Center for Academic Integrity, which defines academic integrity as, **“a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to six fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage.”**

Why is Academic Integrity important?

Academic integrity is fundamental to scholarship and learning, and in the development and acquisition of knowledge. At university, maintaining academic integrity while earning your degree **represents your true academic accomplishments**. In protecting the integrity of your own degree, you also **protect the integrity and reputation of the university**.

What is considered a violation of Academic Integrity?

Violations of academic integrity are termed **academic misconduct**. The UCalgary [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](#) states that academic misconduct is **“any student behavior that compromises proper assessment of a student’s academic activities.”** This includes the following types of academic misconduct:

Type of Academic Misconduct	Definition	Examples
Cheating	Trying to give or gain an improper advantage in academic activities.	Copying from someone else’s work, talking to another student during an exam, having, using or attempting to use unauthorized material or devices during an exam, attempting to read another students’ exam papers and obtaining assistance from another in completing coursework.
Fabrication	Creating or using false records.	Fabricating a transcript or other document, or citing work that does not actually exist.
Falsification	Altering or attempting to alter work or records for academic gain.	Altering transcripts, attempting to change recorded grades, impersonating another student, manipulating, changing or omitting source material, data, methods or findings.
Plagiarism	Presenting the ideas, expression of ideas or work of another individual as your own.	This includes algorithms, code, composition, data, images, art and ceremonies, and scientific and mathematical concepts.
Unauthorized Assistance	Cooperating, collaborating, or otherwise giving and receiving assistance without the instructor’s permission.	Working on an individual paper with another, purchasing papers online, receiving help on assessments from family, friends or peers.
Failure to comply	Failure to comply with an instructors expectations or with the exam regulations.	Not complying with an instructor’s expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessment in their courses, or with exam regulations applied by the Office of the Registrar.

What happens if I am caught violating Academic Integrity?

Academic misconduct is a **serious form of intellectual dishonesty** and the university will investigate all suspected allegations of academic misconduct. The **Student Academic Misconduct Procedure** details the process that will be followed where an academic misconduct violation is suspected.

The sanctions for academic misconduct vary according to many factors including the severity of the violation, what year you are in your program and whether it is a first violation. The sanctions can include educational workshops or, in the case of severe or multiple violations, suspension or expulsion from the university.

Ask for help and get academic support

Completing a university degree is demanding. For some, this includes balancing academic life with additional responsibilities at home or work. There may be occasions when you feel overwhelmed by the demands placed on your time and the amount of work you need to accomplish.

Contact your instructor or T.A.

Always tell your instructor that you're struggling **before** you become overwhelmed. Check your course outline for the instructor's office hours and make an appointment. You may also want to contact the course T.A. for additional help.

Visit the Student Success Centre

Take advantage of the student supports and resources available to you at the Student Success Centre (SSC).

- Consider meeting with an academic development specialist (ADS) in the SSC. The ADS team is well acquainted with the commitments and challenges of university life, and they're passionate about helping students develop strategies that lead to academic success. They can provide advising sessions on personalized academic planning and learning support to help you achieve your academic goals.
- To improve your academic writing skills, book an appointment with a writing tutor in the SSC, or for distance studies students, request an online appointment, or register for the workshops that cover academic integrity, academic writing, study skills and wellness.
- The SSC offers many online resources related to academic improvement. Some of the topics you can seek help for include time management, motivation and notetaking skills.