

Academic Integrity

As an institution guided by Christian principles, the University of Saint Francis places the highest importance upon honesty in all academic work. As such, academic integrity is a fundamental principle of collegial life at the University of Saint Francis and is essential to the credibility of the university's educational programs. Moreover, because assessment may be competitive, students who misrepresent their academic work violate the rights of their fellow students. The University of Saint Francis, therefore, views any act of academic dishonesty as a serious offense requiring disciplinary measures, including failing the assignment, failing the course, and even expulsion from the university. In addition, an act of academic dishonesty may have unforeseen effects far beyond any officially imposed penalties. Violations of academic integrity include cheating or assisting others to cheat. Examples of academic dishonesty include plagiarism, falsification of academic records or documents, and unauthorized access to computerized academic or administrative systems.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the presenting of others' ideas as if they were your own. When you write an essay, do a project, or create anything original, it is assumed that all the work, except for that which is attributed to another author or creator, is your own work. Be aware that word-for-word copying is not the only form of plagiarism.

Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense and may take the following forms:

- Copying word for word from another source and not giving that credit source credit.
- Cutting and Pasting from Internet or database sources without giving that source credit.
- Paraphrasing the work of another and not giving that source credit.
- Adopting a particularly apt phrase as your own.
- Reproducing any published or copyrighted artwork, both fine and commercial.
- Digitally duplicating or downloading any copyrighted software, programs or files.
- Paraphrasing another's line of thinking in the development of a topic as your own.
- Receiving excessive help from a friend or elsewhere, or using another project as your own.

[Adapted from the Modern Language Association's MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. New York: MLA, 1995: 26.]