

Chapter 4 – Academic Affairs

AP 4290 Student Academic Integrity

References:

Title 5 Section Title 5, Section 55002(a)(2)(A).; Mt. SAC BP 4290 and BP 5500;
Chancellor's Office Legal Opinions 07-12 and 95-31

All members of the academic community have a responsibility to ensure that academic integrity is maintained. Faculty have the responsibility of planning and supervising all academic work (any graded work) in order to encourage honest and individual effort and of taking appropriate action if instances of academic dishonesty are discovered. Each individual professor should state specific academic expectations in the course syllabus, in consideration of department policy and subject area.

Academic integrity is primarily the responsibility of each student. The College considers cheating to be a voluntary act for which there may be reason, but for which there is no acceptable excuse.

The term "cheating" includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism which includes submitting work that is not your own, without attributing credit, such as paraphrasing or quoting sources without naming them or using artificial intelligence (AI)-generated content generated by artificial intelligence (AI) without citation;
2. Using or knowingly supplying unauthorized information or academic work, which may include the use of unauthorized materials placed on contract cheating websites, apps, or services;
3. Using or distributing unauthorized material or resources;
4. Modifying an answer after it has been assessed and alleging that the assessment was inaccurate;
5. Illegally accessing confidential information through a computer;
6. Completing academic work for another student or having another person or AI produce academic work for you;
7. Presenting another person's work as your own;
8. Forging or altering registration or grade documents; and/or
9. Submitting collectively developed work as your own, unless specifically allowed by the professor.

A professor who determines that a student has cheated may give the student a failing grade for the assignment. The professor should also recommend that appropriate action be taken under the provisions of AP 5520 - Student Discipline Procedures.

Grade Based on Demonstrated Proficiency:

Since grading policies must reflect the measurement of student performance in terms of the stated course objectives, professors may not fail a student for a single act of cheating or plagiarism if the student can meet, or has already met, the preponderant balance of course objectives as specified in the course outline of record. In addition, students are entitled to a formal, administrative process of review and appeal since allegations of dishonesty are serious and can lead to disciplinary sanctions including suspension and expulsion.

The overall grade for a course should indicate the student's demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter. Students can be given a failing grade on a particular assignment or exam in which dishonesty occurred, and the failing grade for academic dishonesty would then be reflected in the student's overall grade for the course.

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