

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

FOR STUDENTS

In this tip sheet:

- Why is academic integrity important?
- What are plagiarism and cheating?
- What are the consequences of academic dishonesty?
- How can I avoid academic misconduct?

Why is academic integrity important?

Academic integrity is important as a university's reputation hinges on the credibility of both faculty and students. When individuals use falsification, misrepresentation or deception to earn their degree, it devalues the degrees of all students who worked with integrity. The negative impact of cheating in any form has ripple effects and belittles the meaning of higher education.

Plagiarism can take on numerous forms, some of which are:

Copying and Pasting ... portions of any text into your own work and not giving credit;

Self-Plagiarism ... or the resubmission/recycling of any work previously submitted;

Buying papers ... online or elsewhere;

Improper Citations and Referencing ... including, not citing sources, citing sources incorrectly or without giving accurate bibliographic information, and fabricating sources;

Collaborating ... on assignments meant to be done individually (i.e. unauthorized collaboration).

Use of online plagiarism tools:

There are many web-based methods of checking the originality of someone's work. At UOIT, we use Turnitin.com. With more and more information being uploaded to the internet (including academic articles and student assignments), it is becoming more difficult to get away with cheating. UOIT reserves the right to utilize electronic means to help prevent plagiarism. UOIT has purchased a license from Turnitin.com, a plagiarism prevention service to assist faculty in ascertaining whether plagiarism may have occurred. Students are not compelled to submit assignments to Turnitin.com. If a student objects to the use of this service, he/she must inform the faculty member within two weeks of the start of the course.

If you use someone else's words and ideas without citing and referencing them, it is stealing. This type of stealing is called plagiarism or "literacy theft" and is one of the most serious offences in the academic community.

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Cheating includes plagiarism as well as:

Impersonation... pretending to be someone else or someone pretends to be you for any type of academic evaluation.

Falsification... misrepresenting someone else's work/ideas or falsifying records including tests and examinations.

Misrepresentation... misrepresentation of facts, written or oral.

Facilitating academic dishonesty... helping someone else cheat.

Avoiding academic dishonesty:

If you are unsure about what may be considered academic dishonesty should consult with your professor. Information about citations and references can be found at the UOIT Library www.uoit.ca/library/, or at the Nool website: <http://nool.apa.uoit.ca/writing/references-and-citations/> and UOIT's Academic Integrity website.

Additionally, you should strive to take good notes and create your bibliography or reference page as you work to keep track of where your sources come from.

Consequences of academic dishonesty:

If you commit academic dishonesty, depending on the severity (and frequency) of your offence(s) you could: fail your assignment or course, or be suspended or expelled from your program or university.

A **Lesser Offence** is a first time offence on an assignment worth 25% or less of the total course grade. This type of offence may be dealt with by the course instructor and must be reported to the Dean and the Registrar's Office.

A **Major Offence** is a repeated offence or a misconduct on an assignment worth over 25% of the total course grade or cheating on an exam. A major offence is dealt with by the Dean (or Dean's representative) of the Faculty in which the course is offered.

What should I do if I am tempted to cheat?

The best plan is to avoid getting yourself into trouble with good time management and working hard. If you do run into problems, UOIT has lots of support services for students struggling with difficult issues.

For example, [Student Accessibility Services](#) can help if you have a learning or physical disability. If you are feeling depressed, stressed or anxious, the [Student Mental Health Services](#) can help. [Out-reach Services at DC & UOIT](#) have a women's centre, space for LGBTQ support, and a food bank, among other services. For advice on planning your timetable, which courses to take, whether you should drop a course, and so on, you can also talk to an [academic advisor](#) in your Faculty. In addition, TAs or Professors can be helpful. If you're having trouble with developing skills in analytical reading, writing, paraphrasing, or data interpretation, the university's [Student Learning Center](#) can provide help.