



Academic Honesty



THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
**HARRIS SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC POLICY**
Orientation

OVERVIEW

As students at the University of Chicago, you belong to a community with the highest scholarly standards. The fact that you are preparing for careers as policy leaders makes conducting your academic work with the highest levels of integrity even more important. To preserve the integrity of our academic community and protect the value of the degree for all students, we take academic dishonesty very seriously when it does occur.

Any time a student gains an unfair advantage over classmates who have followed rules and instructions, the whole community is impacted. Not only is academic dishonesty unfair to students who have done their work in the correct way, it also robs the student who cheated the opportunity to learn the material in the way that they should have.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY EXAMPLES

Academic dishonesty can take many forms. Some examples include:

- Cheating on an exam
- Unauthorized use of AI
- Plagiarizing a writing assignment
- Turning in a classmate's work as your own
- Using old problem set answers rather than completing the problem set yourself
- Getting access to test questions in advance without the instructor's knowledge
- Providing false information to instructors
- Failing to properly cite sources

HOW CAN YOU AVOID ACADEMIC DISHONESTY?

If you are unsure whether something violates a course's policies, you should always reach out to the instructor to ask. Instructors will never penalize you for asking questions, but if you do violate academic integrity standards (even accidentally), you may be found responsible for academic dishonesty and penalized.

Sometimes cheating occurs when a student runs out of time to complete an assignment or study for a test and feels panicked. Please know that getting a low grade is always a better outcome than cheating.

If you have fallen behind in a class because of a health issue or personal challenge, there are often options available other than cheating. Reach out to your instructor, advisor, or the Dean of Students to discuss options for extensions or other adjustments.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY?

The consequences for academic dishonesty can be very severe and can include anything from a formal warning and probation to suspension or permanent expulsion from the University.

In addition to these disciplinary consequences, academic dishonesty often leads to a student failing the course, which means additional tuition for an additional course, plus a probable delay in when the student can graduate. The impact of even one F on a student's GPA can also make it difficult for the student to maintain the minimum 2.7 GPA required for the degree.

ACADEMIC HONESTY RESOURCES

- [Harris Academic Policies and Standards](#)
- [University Academic Honesty Policies](#)
- [University General Policies](#)
- [University Disciplinary Procedures](#)



We recommend all students review the policies linked above before the start of the academic year.