

Student Academic Honesty

All members of the academic community have a responsibility to ensure that scholastic honesty is maintained. Faculty have the responsibility of planning and supervising all academic work in order to encourage honest and individual effort, and of taking appropriate action if instances of academic dishonesty are discovered.

Honesty 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.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating (Academic Dishonesty)

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

- Plagiarism
- Receiving or knowingly supplying unauthorized information
- Using unauthorized material or sources
- Changing an answer after work has been graded and presenting it as improperly graded
- Illegally accessing confidential information through a computer
- Taking an examination for another student or having another person take an examination for you
- Presenting another person's work as your own
- Forging or altering registration or grade documents
- 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 and should report the alleged academic dishonesty to the Student Life Office, which will maintain a record of the report and appropriate action under the provisions of the Administrative Procedures on Student Discipline **(AP 5520)**.

Students are advised that allegations of dishonesty are serious, and can lead to disciplinary sanctions including suspension and expulsion. **(AP 4290)**.

Plagiarism

"Plagiarism is a direct violation of intellectual and academic honesty. Although it exists in many forms, all plagiarism refers to the same act: representing somebody else's words or ideas as one's own. The most extreme forms of plagiarism are the use of material authored by another person or obtained from a commercial source, or the use of passages copied word for word without acknowledgment. Paraphrasing an author's idea or quoting even limited portions of his or her text without proper citation is also an act of plagiarism. Even putting someone else's ideas into one's own words without acknowledgment may be plagiarism. In none of its forms can plagiarism be tolerated in an academic community. It may constitute grounds for a failing grade, probation, suspension, or expulsion."

"One distinctive mark of an educated person is the ability to use language correctly and effectively to express ideas. Faculty assign written work for the purpose of helping students achieve that mark. Each instructor will outline specific criteria, but all expect students to present work that represents the student's understanding of the subject in the student's own words. It is seldom expected that student papers will be based entirely or even primarily on original ideas or original research."

“Therefore, to incorporate the concepts of others may be appropriate with proper acknowledgment of sources, and to quote others directly by means of quotation marks and acknowledgments is proper. However, if a paper consists entirely of quotations and citations, the paper should be rewritten to show the student’s own understanding and expressive ability. The purpose of the written assignment (i.e., development of communication and analytic skills) should be kept in mind as each paper is prepared. It should not be evaded through plagiarism.”*

**Adopted, with permission of California State University, Los Angeles, from their policy printed in the 1987-88 General Catalog.*

Taken from pages 251-252 of the 2013-14 Mt. San Antonio College Catalog