

Ten Principles of Academic Integrity

By Donald L. McCabe and Gary Pavela

- 1. Affirm the importance of academic integrity.**
Institutions of higher education are dedicated to the pursuit of truth. Faculty members need to affirm that the pursuit of truth is grounded in certain core values, including diligence, civility, and honesty.
- 2. Foster a love of learning.**
A commitment to academic integrity is reinforced by high academic standards. Most students will thrive in an atmosphere where academic work is seen as challenging, relevant, useful, and fair.
- 3. Treat students as ends in themselves.**
Faculty members should treat their students as ends in themselves--deserving individual attention and consideration. Students will generally reciprocate by respecting the best values of their teachers, including a commitment to academic integrity.
- 4. Promote an environment of trust in the classroom.**
Most students are mature adults, and value an environment free of arbitrary rules and trivial assignments, where trust is earned, and given.
- 5. Encourage student responsibility for academic integrity.**
With proper guidance, students can be given significant responsibility to help protect and promote the highest standards of academic integrity. Students want to work in communities where competition is fair, integrity is respected, and cheating is punished. They understand that one of the greatest inducements to engaging in academic dishonesty is the perception that academic dishonesty is rampant.
- 6. Clarify expectations for students.**
Faculty members have primary responsibility for designing and cultivating the educational environment and experience. They must clarify their expectations in advance regarding honesty in academic work, including the nature and scope of student collaboration. Most students want such guidance, and welcome it in course syllabi, carefully reviewed by their teachers in class.
- 7. Develop fair and relevant forms of assessment.**
Students expect their academic work to be fairly and fully assessed. Faculty members should use--and continuously revise--forms of assessment that require active and creative thought, and promote learning opportunities for students.
- 8. Reduce opportunities to engage in academic dishonesty.**
Prevention is a critical line of defense in academic dishonesty. Students should not be tempted or induced to engage in acts of academic dishonesty by ambiguous policies, undefined or unrealistic standards for collaboration, inadequate classroom management, or poor examination security.
- 9. Challenge academic dishonesty when it occurs.**
Students observe how faculty members behave, and what values they embrace. Faculty members who ignore or trivialize academic dishonesty send the message that the core values of academic life, and community life in general, are not worth any significant effort to enforce.
- 10. Help define and support campus-wide academic integrity standards.**
Acts of academic dishonesty by individual students can occur across artificial divisions of departments and schools. Although faculty members should be the primary role models of academic integrity, responsibility for defining, promoting, and protecting academic integrity must be a community-wide concern--not only to identify repeat offenders, and apply consistent due process procedures, but to affirm the shared values that make colleges and universities true communities.