Academic Integrity at Colby College

Rebecca Conry, Ph.D.
- Academic Integrity Coordinator
- Chemistry Professor

more information available: colby.edu/academicintegrity/
slides available at colby.edu/academicintegrity/training-resources

also see the Colby Student Handbook
Some Reflections

❖ Why are you in college? List as many reasons as you can.
❖ What academic work are you most proud of? Why? What did you do to create that work?
❖ When have you been most impressed with someone else’s work or ideas? What made it impressive?
❖ Who helped you get to where you are today? What do you have to thank them for?
What is Academic Integrity?

Academic Integrity is the practice of being honest and ethical in all your academic endeavors. It includes:

- Giving credit to everyone whose work you relied upon.
- Clearly distinguishing between your work and others’ work.
- Following course rules designed to help you and others learn and be accurately assessed on your learning.
- Being careful and thorough in your research and in communicating the results of your research including distinguishing your contributions from others.
Why is Academic Integrity Important?

Conducting your work honestly and ethically:

- creates a culture of trust and collaboration between students and between students and faculty;
- helps you to get the most possible out of your education;
- ensures that you and others get appropriate credit for your work and insights;
- helps ensure that you are earning a valuable degree from a respected institution.
Academic Integrity Cornerstones

Give Credit.

Build Trust.

Reach Out.
Why is Academic Dishonesty a problem?

Academic dishonesty:

• creates a culture of distrust between students and between students and faculty;
• lessens learning;
• is essentially theft, forgery, and/or counterfeiting;
• forms unethical habits;
• can harm the reputation of the College and thus all graduates of the College.
What is Academic Dishonesty?

Turning in someone else’s work as your own.

Quoting without “ “

Not citing when you rely on someone else’s work

Cheating on exams, homework, lab reports, …
More about Academic Dishonesty

Specific examples of behaviors that typically constitute academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

• word-for-word copying of another’s words without quotation marks and citation
• paraphrasing another’s ideas without citation
• turning in another’s work or a modification of another’s work as one’s own
• enlisting or attempting to enlist someone else to do an assignment for you
• deliberately fabricating information or citations
• violating stated rules for completing an exam, assignment, or lab (examples: unauthorized collaborations with other students, use of forbidden online resources)
• making misrepresentations to faculty
• submitting the same work in more than one course without the permission of all instructors
• knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty
• repeatedly engaging in academic negligence
Academic Dishonesty

is a significant ethical violation rather than an oversight. It may result from an intent to deceive; a willful failure to read, recall or consult course rules; the deliberate failure to learn or apply standard ethical norms for academic work; or intentional carelessness.

Academic Negligence

is a minor unintentional lapse of ethical academic behavior that the student should have known. It may result from misunderstanding expectations, inadequate pre-college preparation, or inattention to differences in cultural or disciplinary citation practices.

Not sure? ASK!! Email rebecca.conry@colby.edu
Reasons for Student Dishonesty

❖ to try to get better grades, appear smarter, avoid mistakes, replace a lack of skills or lack of confidence in skills
❖ poor time management, disorganization, overcommitted
❖ ignorant of protocols, requirements (culture, class, etc.)
❖ assumption that some assignments or subjects can only be done by cheating or don’t seem relevant/worthwhile
❖ it’s easier, everyone does it, and it doesn’t matter
What You Can Do

• Always strive to do your best work! It does not have to be perfect.
• Learn as much as you can from every assignment, including striving to understand its relevance or purpose.
• Be attuned to differences between cultures, disciplines, professors…
• Make sure you clearly understand what is allowed and not allowed.
• Always give credit to people or sources you relied upon, making it clear which ideas and work are yours and which are others’.
• Promote academic honesty to your friends and classmates!
• If you witness academic dishonesty, let your professor know.
• Work to develop efficient study habits and time management
Seek help whenever you need it! The earlier the better!

Resources:
- Your Course Instructors: *syllabi*, assignment instructions, in person, by e-mail
- Your Advising Dean
- Your Academic Advisor
- Your Personal Librarian
- Writing Center
- Counseling Center
How Academic Dishonesty is handled

- Professor reports academic dishonesty to the Colby Academic Integrity Coordinator (AIC)

- The AIC oversees the process. Individual cases are handled by an Academic Review Board (ARB) consisting of the reporting instructor, AIC, another faculty member, two students, and the Dean of Conduct (non-voting)

- ARB investigates as needed and if dishonesty is found assigns sanction: typically for low-stakes assignment minimally zero credit; for a major assignment or exam usually course failure; for a second time suspension; for a third time expulsion—*resulting in a lower grade than that earned for an honest effort, plus*

- An academic dishonesty sanction letter is placed in that student’s file until six years after graduation; must be declared and explained many professional/graduate school applications
Why sanction?

- The College is sending the strong message that academic dishonesty is unacceptable
- An opportunity for the student to change approach to academics
- Protects reputation of other students & College
- Deters other acts of academic dishonesty
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Prof. Scott Taylor, former AIC

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