

KEEP YOUR EYES ON YOUR OWN WORK

ADDRESSING CHEATING & PLAGIARISM IN THE CLASSROOM

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty have long plagued college campuses. While we all agree that such acts diminish the learning experience and should be reported when it occurs, we may not be as clear as to why students cheat and what we can do to prevent this behavior. Here, we will first discuss **why students engage in academic dishonesty** and **what we can do to reduce the likelihood of it occurring**.

WHY DO STUDENTS CHEAT?

Some of the most common reasons include:

Grade-Related Pressures

Parent expectations, securing and maintaining college scholarships, admission to graduate school, and competing in job recruitment, all motivate students to value grades over learning and thus put pressure on them to cheat.

Poor Time Management and Planning

Time management is a major challenge for many students. Unpreparedness can lead some students to feel their only choice is to engage in some form of academic dishonesty.

Lack of Interest and Motivation

Many students fail to see the value of courses not directly related to their majors; others view college courses solely as “credentials” that will allow them to pursue a particular career and do not see the value.

Ignorance About Plagiarism

Some students, whether it be cultural or lack of familiarity regarding is defined as academic dishonesty, are simply unaware of what academic dishonesty is and when they might be engaging in it.

HOW TO IDENTIFY AND PREVENT CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM



- **Understand Why Students Cheat.** By knowing their motivations, instructors can take steps by addressing the causes.



- **Define Academic Dishonesty for Students.** Share with students explicitly and specifically what is considered cheating, plagiarism, and academic dishonesty and how they can avoid it.



- **Educate Students about the Value of Learning versus Cheating.** Remind students that the degree will help them land a job, but they will be lacking the necessary skills they need; cheating through a career is not an option.



- **Make Assignments Clear & Original.** Be specific about expectations. Require particular components to an assignment. Provide examples of exemplars.



- **Utilize Essay-Scanning Software.** Utilize Unicheck and Lockdown Browser in Canvas to reduce the likelihood of plagiarism and cheating respectively. Other software that can be used include: Safe Assign, Turnitin, Viper, Glatt Screening, or Plagiarism Detect.



- **Create an Ideal Testing Environment.** Require a cleared desk or have students using testing booklets to swap theirs with a peer prior to the exam. Separate students during exams, whenever possible.



- **Establish Clear Consequences.** Whether the student will fail the assignment, be removed from the course, or be subjected to an academic honor council, always apply realistic and consistent consequences.



- **Share Student Success Resources.** Let students know what campus opportunities are available to develop learning skills or to receive course related assistance.

REFERENCES

McCabe, D. L., Butterfield, K. D., & Trevino, L. K. (2012). *Cheating in college: Why students do it and what educators can do about it*. JHU Press.



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