

Code of Academic Integrity

The Code of Academic Integrity at Seaver College is an integral part of the educational process. It makes possible an atmosphere conducive to the development of the total person through learning experiences. Since a person is more than intellect, learning is more than academic achievement. It includes achievement in all the qualities of an individual: intellectual, spiritual, ethical, emotional, and physical.

Seaver's code provides among students, faculty members, and the administration a spirit of community where such development can take place. Furthermore, it creates a climate of mutual trust, respect, and interpersonal concern, where openness and integrity prevail.

This Code of Academic Integrity enriches the educational process at Seaver College and encourages the development of a Seaver spirit. This leads to a pervasive sense of pride in and loyalty to Seaver's high standards of academic ethics, personal honesty, and spiritual values which imbue Seaver College as part of a Christian university.

The code emphasizes the dignity and development of each individual. The code maintains free competition and independent intellectual effort, not tolerating dishonesty, cheating, or plagiarism in any form. If acts of dishonorable conduct occur, the code outlines infractions and clear-cut procedures as well as sanctions to censure such activity.

But, to be effective, the code must be maintained by the community. This requires a genuine sense of maturity, responsibility, and sensitivity on the part of every member. In particular, each member of the Seaver College community is expected to pursue his or her academic work with honesty and integrity.

Academic Integrity is the expression of intellectual virtue in human beings as a result of their creation in God's image. It represents the convergence of the best of the human spirit and God's spirit, which requires personal, private, and community virtue. As a Christian institution, Pepperdine University affirms that integrity begins in our very created being and is lived out in our academic work.

Unfortunately, students do, on occasion, violate Academic Integrity, and this provides a need for discipline and an opportunity for restoration. The following pages describe the various forms of violation recognized by Pepperdine University and the resulting steps that both the student and institution must take.

VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is violated when one of the following events occurs:

I. Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when a writer appropriates another's ideas without proper acknowledgement of the source or uses another's words without indicating that fact through the use of proper annotation.

II. Cheating

Cheating is the use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in an academic exercise as well as collusion in visual or oral form.

III. Fabrication

Fabrication is the falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. This includes lying to a member of the administration, faculty, or Academic Integrity Committee (AIC).

IV. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty

Facilitation of academic dishonesty occurs when students knowingly or negligently aid others or allow their work to be used in a dishonest academic manner. Such students are as guilty of violating academic integrity as their recipients.

VIOLATION LEVELS

Any violation of academic integrity is subject to an appropriate penalty. Violations at Pepperdine University are classified into four levels according to the nature of the infraction. For each level of violation, a corresponding set of sanctions is recommended. The Academic Integrity Committee and the office of the dean of Seaver College are charged with using these guidelines as general rules of practice for the academic community in matters relating to the assignment of violation level and appropriate sanction.

For more detailed information about the level of violations, consequences and procedures, committee description, and procedures and instructions, please visit the Academic Integrity Web site at: seaver.pepperdine.edu/academicintegrity.

