PLAGIARISM IN ACADEMICS

ACADEMIC HONESTY

<http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/appx/appx.2.htm>

***The UCI Academic Senate Policies on Academic Honesty*** *were approved by the Irvine Division on June 2, 1988, and most recently revised on June 7, 2007.*

A. PREAMBLE

The University is an institution of learning, research, and scholarship predicated on the existence of an environment of honesty and integrity. As members of the academic community, faculty, students, and administrative officials share responsibility for maintaining this environment. It is essential that all members of the academic community subscribe to the ideal of academic honesty and integrity and accept individual responsibility for their work. Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated at the University of California, Irvine. Cheating, forgery, dishonest conduct, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the University's educational, research, and social roles. They devalue the learning experience and its legitimacy not only for the perpetrators but for the entire community.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

All members of the academic community have a responsibility to ensure that scholastic honesty is maintained.

Faculty have primary responsibility for:

1.   Upholding and enforcing universitywide principles of academic honesty and integrity and explaining clearly these principles including any qualifications which may be operative in the classes they are teaching.

2.    Minimizing opportunities for academic misconduct in their courses.

3.    Confronting students suspected of academic dishonesty in a way that respects student privacy.

4.    Affording students accused of academic misconduct the right to appeal any resulting disputes to disinterested parties for hearing and resolution.

5.    Assigning an appropriate grade to a student who engages in academic dishonesty.

6.    Reporting all instances of academic dishonesty to appropriate Associate Deans.

7.   Protecting the anonymity of any student reporting an incident of academic dishonesty to the extent permitted by due process required for the accused and other legal requirements.

Students have responsibility for:

1.   Refraining from cheating and plagiarism.

2.   Refusing to aid or abet any form of academic dishonesty.

3.    Notifying professors and/or appropriate administrative officials about observed incidents of academic misconduct. The anonymity of a student reporting an incident of academic dishonesty will be protected.

C. WHAT IS ACADEMIC DISHONESTY?

Academic dishonesty applies equally to electronic media and print, and involves text, images, and ideas. It includes but is not limited to the following examples:

Cheating

1.    Copying from others during an examination.

2.    Communicating exam answers with other students during an examination.

3.    Offering another person's work as one's own.

4.    Taking an examination for another student or having someone take an examination for oneself.

5.    Sharing answers for a take-home examination or assignment unless specifically authorized by the instructor.

6.    Tampering with an examination after it has been corrected, then returning it for more credit.

7.    Using unauthorized materials, prepared answers, written notes or information concealed in a blue book or elsewhere during an examination.

8.    Allowing others to do the research and writing of an assigned paper (including use of the services of a commercial term-paper company).

Dishonest Conduct

1.    Stealing or attempting to steal an examination or answer key from the instructor.

2.    Changing or attempting to change academic records without proper sanction.

3.    Submitting substantial portions of the same work for credit in more than one course without consulting all instructors involved.

4.    Forging add/drop/change cards and other enrollment documents, or altering such documents after signatures have been obtained.

5.    Intentionally disrupting the educational process in any manner.

6.    Allowing another student to copy off of one's own work during a test.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is intellectual theft. It means use of the intellectual creations of another without proper attribution. Plagiarism may take two main forms, which are clearly related:

1.    To steal or pass off as one's own the ideas or words, images, or other creative works of another.

2.    To use a creative production without crediting the source, even if only minimal information is available to identify it for citation.

Credit must be given for every direct quotation, for paraphrasing or summarizing a work (in whole, or in part, in one's own words), and for information which is not common knowledge.

Collusion

Any student who knowingly or intentionally helps another student perform any of the above acts of cheating or plagiarism is subject to discipline for academic dishonesty.

D. PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH INCIDENTS OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Many, perhaps most, incidents of academic dishonesty involve accusations which are based on clear evidence and which are not contested by the accused student. In such cases, if the infraction is relatively minor and there is no indication that the accused student has previously been involved in such incidents, it is most appropriate that the matter be resolved between the student and the faculty member. When this occurs, it is nevertheless important that a written report of the incident be filed to ensure that penalties assessed are commensurate with the offense and that repeated infractions be detected and dealt with appropriately.

More serious incidents and repeat offenses which call for stronger disciplinary action, may result in campuswide sanctions, in addition to the actions imposed by a faculty member. In such cases, these sanctions, as described in [Section 105.00 of the *Policies Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations, and Students,*](http://www.dos.uci.edu/judicial/uci_policy.php#100.00) will be administered by the Academic Associate Deans or the Office of the Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education or Graduate Studies.

Finally, whenever an accusation of academic dishonesty or a grade given by a faculty member is contested by an accused student, the student has recourse for mediation of the dispute. Processes for mediation, resolution, and/or an investigation may be requested by the student or the Associate (Undergraduate or Graduate) Dean of the faculty member's school through the Office of the Ombudsman. In incidents where a campuswide sanction has been imposed, the student can request a hearing with the appropriate Hearing Panel on Academic Honesty which will be convened by the Office of either the Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education or the Dean of Graduate Studies, depending on the status of the accused student.

[IPBiz](http://ipbiz.blogspot.com/)

Intellectual property news affecting business and everyday life

**Thursday, August 07, 2008**

[UVa expels plagiarizing OhioU student from ship!](http://www.inrich.com/cva/ric/news.apx.-content-articles-RTD-2008-08-08-0145.html%22%20%5Co%20%22external%20link)

An Ohio University student, Allison Routman, on-board the "Semester at Sea" program run by the University of Virginia, was put ashore at Greece for plagiarism.

*Routman was nearing the end of the summer voyage when she was accused of plagiarism. Her class had been assigned to watch a movie and write a paper comparing it with personal experiences from the voyage.

She chose "Europa Europa," a film about the Holocaust, and related it to her experience growing up Jewish.

She said she watched the movie but* ***looked up the synopsis on Wikipedia to make sure she used the right historical terminology****.

The day before the papers were returned, she said, the professor told the class there were some suspected cases of plagiarism and asked students to come forward and make a "conscientious retraction."

"Had I had any idea I had done something wrong, I would have absolutely come forward," she said.

Several students did, however, and were not expelled, she said. But she and another student were ordered off the ship.*

IPBiz notes that Ohio University was the site of the master’s degree plagiarism mess in the Russ engineering school. Some people might draw a parallel between the two matters as to the "triviality" of the events: copied "background" sections in the theses and a copied movie synopsis by Routman. Glen Poshard copied his summary of "review of prior literature" in his Ph.D. thesis (page 54) at SIU, but got a walk through the concept of inadvertent plagiarism. Laurence Tribe copied FROM a U Va professor and basically got a walk. There is no consistency in the way plagiarism events are handled.

**Harvard Cheating Scandal Ends In Dozens Of Forced Withdrawals**

 | By BRIDGET MURPHY

Posted: 02/01/2013 2:34 pm

BOSTON — Harvard University said Friday it issued academic sanctions against approximately 60 students who were forced to withdraw from school for a period of time in a cheating scandal that involved the final exam in a class on Congress, drawing criticism from a high-profile alumnus.

The school implicated as many as 125 students in the scandal when officials first addressed the issue last year.

The inquiry started after a teaching assistant in a spring semester undergraduate-level government class detected problems in the take-home test, including that students may have shared answers.

In a campus-wide email Friday, Faculty of Arts and Sciences Dean Michael D. Smith said the school's academic integrity board had resolved all the cases related to the cheating probe.

He said "somewhat more than half" of the cases involved students who had to withdraw from the college for a period of time.

Harvard said that the length of a student's withdrawal period is usually from two to four terms.

Of the cases left, about half the students got disciplinary probation. The rest weren't disciplined.

Some athletes became ensnared, including two basketball team co-captains whom the school scratched from its team roster in the wake of the cheating investigation.

Past reports in The Harvard Crimson also linked football, baseball and hockey players to the scandal.

Smith's said in Friday's email that the school wouldn't discuss specific student cases. A school spokesman, citing student privacy, also wouldn't say if any athletes had withdrawn or say which teams might have been affected.

The dean said a school committee is working on recommendations to strengthen a culture of academic honesty and promote ethics in scholarship.

"This is a time for communal reflection and action," he wrote. "We are responsible for creating the community in which our students study and we all thrive as scholars."

Staples founder Thomas Stemberg, a Harvard graduate whose son is a student, on Friday criticized the school's handling of the probe.

"If you challenge the entire faculty at the Harvard Business School and the Harvard Law School to come up with a process that took more time, cost more money, embarrassed more innocent students, and vindicated guilty faculty ... that could not have outdone the process that took place," he said.

Stemberg, a supporter of Harvard's basketball team, knows some of the students caught up in the scandal and his son knows others.

He wrote a complaint letter to Harvard's president in early January claiming that the professor who taught the government class changed the rules after several exams in which "open collaboration" was encouraged.

He alleged that for the take-home exam in question, instructions to students said they couldn't collaborate with professors, teaching fellows "and others."

"If the message was so clearly expressed, why did some of the teaching fellows go over the exam in open session ... If they did not get the message, could one expect the students to understand it?"

Stemberg went on to say that while some students "went too far, literally cutting and pasting their answers," others only wrote answers from notes "derived in the collaborative atmosphere the class encouraged."

The class was known as "Introduction to Congress," and widely seen on campus as an easy way to get a good grade.

Harvard Undergraduate Council President Tara Raghuveer said Friday that the cheating investigation has been a hot topic on campus for months. She said some students started the new school year without knowing if they'd be allowed to finish it because of the lengthy period of time the probe took.

The 20-year-old junior also said there are a lot of questions about whether the take-home exam's instructions were clear enough when it came to expectations about group work. She said both students and professors are being careful to discuss collaboration policies now.

Raghuveer also said the school community should make an effort to embrace the students who withdrew for disciplinary reasons when they come back to campus.

"The students who are implicated in this scandal from last spring still need to be recognized as members of our community ... They shouldn't feel alienated from Harvard," she said. "This was an unfortunate incident. Students are being punished accordingly."