

DukeWrites Enrichment Suite

Academic integrity, part four

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We're going to look at maintaining academic integrity: concerns about cheating and lying or falsification.

So when you think about cheating, some obvious forms come to mind right away, I'm sure. One would be looking at a classmate's quiz, test, exam to try to find the right answer. Another would be using notes of any kind on your hand, wherever. Any form of help that you were not supposed to bring into the room for your quiz, test, exam.

These are clearly cheating and I certainly hope you will not do any of those while you're here at Duke.

Another form might be that there is someone who has the same course but at an earlier time in the day or perhaps the day before yours. You should not be asking that person what questions were on the quiz or exam. Or what the possible answer might be.

And finally, one that has caused some trouble for some students at Duke before is working on a homework assignment with other people. It doesn't really matter if you've had group assignments before in the class or you've had teams to work on assignments before.

If your professor or teaching assistant has not told you specifically that you can work as a group or team on **this** assignment, you should not do it.

Some things in this area of academic integrity are definitely culturally related. So let's look at some of those cultural differences. It might be that you come from a culture that is more communal or collectivist. You might feel that I have to help my friend; I'm required to help my friend because that's a norm of my society. That's a norm of my culture.

Well, at Duke, you should not help that person with the quiz, the test, the homework assignment in any way that would jeopardize your career or that other friend's career at Duke.

You again, as I just mentioned, will have some individual assignments and sometimes your professor might say on this assignment you're going to work as a group or a team.

Just realize that when you have the assignment after that, you should assume that you need to do that work individually unless your professor again tells you that that is a group assignment.

While you're at Duke, you might be given a take-home exam. With a take-home exam, you're working on the answers to your questions outside of the classroom. Normally when you have a take-home exam, you may **not** get any help from anyone else. No one in your class, no one anywhere. That you would just do that take-home exam by yourself.

If you had a question about the exam, you would ask your professor or your teaching assistant about that question. No one else.

Another area that might be culturally based is if your professor or teaching assistant leaves the room while you're taking the quiz or exam. I have heard a student at Duke from another culture say that in his culture, if the professor left the room, if the instructor left the room, that was a signal that we could cheat on the test.

In the United States, this is not true. In the United States, if your professor, instructor, teaching assistant leaves the room, they are leaving because they trust that you will be honest in your work.

They trust that you will not cheat. Your professor might say, "I'm going to be right outside in the hallway, so if you have a question you can come and ask me." But again, the professor assumes that you have the integrity to be honest about your work on that exam even if there's no one officially in the room watching you.

One more cultural difference might be that you are from a culture in which it was normal for you to memorize large sections of your textbook word for word. And then be asked to repeat those in your exam.

In the United States, this is not a normal practice, so your professor will not expect to see pieces of your textbook word for word on your exam. If you do that, your professor might think that you have cheated, might think that you have that hidden, written on your hand or on a piece of paper. And that you copied it during the exam as a form of cheating. So please be aware of this.

Next, work from another course. It might be that you have an assignment this semester and you think, "Hmm. I think the assignment that I had last semester in my other course might work really well for this course. Maybe I can just use my same work for this course."

Well, at Duke, that is not considered fair. That is considered a form of cheating, might even be considered a form of plagiarism. Either way, it doesn't really matter. You are not maintaining academic integrity if you do that.

If you would like to use an assignment from the past or even a piece of an assignment from the past, you need to ask permission of your current professor to do so.

So, forms of lying and falsification. Some of these might be obvious to you, but let's look at the Duke Community Standard and consider what it says. Notice here in blue, I've highlighted the words all academic and nonacademic endeavors. So realize that the Community Standard applies to things that you do in the classroom for your classes and things that you do outside the classroom and not for your classes.

Let's look at some violations that have happened at Duke before. So if you do not tell the truth on a resume or on a CV ~ these are documents that you create to help you get a job ~ this is a violation of the Community Standard. This is something that Duke students have gotten in trouble for before, so please don't do it.

Another violation would be if you do not tell your professor, instructor, or teaching assistant the truth about why you will be absent from class.

And finally, if you do not tell the truth because you are trying to get extra time to work on an assignment that is also a violation of the Community Standard.

I hope this has helped you understand a little bit more about maintaining your academic integrity as a Duke student. If you'd like more information, please take a look at [Want More?](#) on our site. Thank you.