



Ways to Increase Academic Honesty and Discourage Cheating

Be explicit about academic honesty policies and your expectations at the beginning of the term and throughout the semester.

- Include the Academic Honesty policy in the course syllabus.
- Discuss Academic Honesty in class. Explain why cheating is wrong and spell out the consequences.
- Review with students how to properly integrate information from published sources.
- Make sure students know the criteria that will be used for evaluating their performance
- If you are using a plagiarism detection system such as Turnitin, let students know.
- Include rules for exam behavior in the syllabus. Discuss the rules in class prior to exams.

When designing assignments and exams, there are steps you can take that will minimize opportunities for cheating.

- Do not give the same exact assignments or exams year after year. Keep making changes.
- Give assignments that ask for very specific criteria.
- Design assignments and assessment items that require problem-solving and application of knowledge.
- Ask students to reflect and write about their writing process.
- Avoid the assignment of overly broad paper/essay topics that might easily be purchased from a paper mill.
- Require outlines, source lists and multiple drafts.
- Using the same questions, create 2 different versions of an exam.

Use several precautions during an exam.

- Make your precautions deliberate and apparent to students.
- If space allows, have students spread out and stagger seating.
- Insist that everything is put away – including backpacks, purses, books, sunglasses, cell phones, and all food and drink. Items can be placed together against a far wall in full view of everyone.
- Do not allow students to wear baseball caps.
- Do not allow any additional papers on student desks. If possible, supply scratch paper and/or blue books.
- Remain in the room and actively watch students throughout the exam.
- Be careful no one takes a picture of the test with a cell phone.

Read more at the following online resources:

- [Link](#) Brown University Tips for Preventing Cheating & Plagiarizing
[Link](#) UC Berkeley Ten Ways To Minimize Academic Dishonesty in Your Classroom
[Link](#) UC Berkeley Preventing Academic Dishonesty

Additional References:

"Academic Dishonesty & the Perceived Effectiveness of Countermeasures: an Empirical Survey of Cheating at a Major Public University." NASPA Journal, 1996

Tools for Teaching by Barbara Gross Davis; Jossey-Bass Publishers: San Francisco, 1993.