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From University of Arkansas' Academic Initiatives and Integrity

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Academic Initiatives and Integrity

The Office of Academic Integrity and Student Conduct recently split into two distinct units. The **Office of Student Standards and Conduct** focuses on university conduct issues while **Academic Initiatives and Integrity** is responsible for all matters concerning academic integrity violations.

Dr. Monica Holland was promoted to the position of Executive Director of Academic Initiatives and Integrity. Other staff includes Jill Scott, administrative specialist and Debbie Frederiksen, graduate assistant. Academic Initiatives and Integrity works closely with the office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and facilitates communication among the Academic Integrity Monitors and the All-University Academic Integrity Board. In addition to managing policies and violation procedures, Academic Initiatives and Integrity is also responsible for educational outreach to faculty, staff and students. More than 30 presentations were offered to approximately 80 sections of First Year Experience courses this fall.

Last year, a new Academic Integrity Policy and sanctioning rubric were implemented campus-wide. The success of this system can be seen in the positive response from faculty and students alike. The policy and related information can be found at

<http://provost.uark.edu/457.php>.

From the Executive Director>>>

Welcome!

By: Monica Holland

It seems a little late in the semester to offer a welcome announcement to students, staff, and faculty, but it has only been a few short weeks since the Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs created Academic Initiatives and Integrity. I am so excited to be leading the efforts of this unit and furthering the University's commitment to increasing its academic reputation and the value and prestige of the degrees it awards.

We have some exciting initiatives to unveil in the near future, but in the meantime we are working hard with the current policies and procedures which ultimately serve to protect the value of all University of Arkansas degrees. If you have any questions, suggestions, or general comments, please feel free to contact me or one of my staff at honesty@uark.edu. Best wishes as the fall semester comes to an end!

Academic Initiatives and Integrity's Mission Statement:

Through the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Academic Initiatives and Integrity strives to create a culture of honesty and personal and professional responsibility among University of Arkansas students, faculty, and staff. As a community of scholars we uphold academic integrity as foundational to appropriate conduct within the university setting. Academic Initiatives and Integrity manages outreach efforts for policy education and facilitates the University's process for alleged violations with the All University Academic Integrity Board.



UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

2011-2012 Academic Integrity Annual Report

During the 2011-2012 academic year, Academic Initiatives and Integrity (formerly part of the Office of Academic Integrity and Student Conduct) continued to focus on educating the University of Arkansas community on the new Academic Integrity policy to subsequently deter behaviors that do not conform to the standards set forth by the University. Since the implementation of the new policy, there was an increase in academic integrity activity. We attribute this increase, in part, to the simplified reporting process. Faculty members find it easier to adhere to the policy and are therefore submitting cases that previously they might have attempted to address themselves. Below is a look back on this past year's activity.

Offense	Total
Academic Integrity Violation (Old Policy)	57
Copying during an examination	39
Using unauthorized material during and examination	24
Collaborating during an exam	22
Aiding/facilitating in an act of academic dishonesty	28
Collaborating on an assignment	41
Using other coursework with permission	2
Falsification of attendance	20
Plagiarism	160
Buying, selling, or otherwise obtaining information about an exam not yet administered	2
Substituting for another to take an exam	4
Submitting another's work as your own	50
Submitting altered/falsified data	5
Altering grades or official records	1
Signing another's name on any University related document	5
Sabotaging another student's work	0
Other	12
Total Academic Integrity Cases Submitted	409

**Look for more soon...
we'll be back in
the spring! >>>**

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Academic Integrity Monitor Spotlight

Patricia R. Koski

Associate Dean, Graduate
School and International
Education



What's the biggest change you've noticed since the new academic integrity policy and process were implemented?

The biggest change that I have seen is that the faculty have begun to really trust the policy. It is clear to both faculty and students that the University considers academic integrity issues to be serious, and that when students violate the policy, there will be consequences.

What has been the faculty's response?

The faculty are beginning to understand and use the policy. They are being very supportive.

What's it like being an Academic Integrity Monitor?

It's certainly been interesting. I have always felt very strongly about academic integrity and this allows me to participate directly in the process. There have been some student cases that have made me sad, and some that have caused me to shake my head in wonder.

What is your advice to students regarding academic integrity?

Consider your personal ethics to be one of your most important characteristics. Don't cheat, don't help other people cheat, tell someone when you see someone cheat and take academic integrity seriously. Once you have lost people's trust in your integrity, you will find it very hard to get back.

What would you like to see in the future regarding academic integrity on our campus?

In general, we just need more education. I think we have a very good, very workable policy on campus now and I want to thank Provost Gaber, Vice Provost Di Brezzo, Dr. Monica Holland and Dr. Paul Cronan as well as the amazing Ad Hoc committee that created this policy. I hope that students and faculty both take this policy and issue seriously and help us ensure that we have a campus that understands the importance of ethics.

Academic Issues Around the Globe



Academic integrity isn't just an important issue on our campus, but it's a prevalent topic worldwide. Check out some of the discussion in recent news:

"Studies Find More Students Cheating, With High Achievers No Exception"
New York Times, September 7, 2012
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/08/education/studies-show-more-students-cheat-even-high-achievers.html>

"Harvard Students in Cheating Scandal Say Collaboration Was Accepted"
New York Times, August 31, 2012
<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/01/education/students-of-harvard-cheating-scandal-say-group-work-was-accepted.html>

"Students will show academic integrity — if colleges support it"
Boston Globe, September 5, 2012
http://articles.boston.com/2012-09-05/opinion/33581799_1_grade-inflation-college-students-academic-integrity

"Dishonorable conduct?"
Inside Higher Ed, September 5, 2012
<http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2012/09/06/honor-code-may-not-be-enough-solve-academic-integrity-issues-harvard>

"Bucharest University Senate meets over Prime Minister plagiarism case, Ponta could lose PhD"
Romania Insider, September 15, 2012
<http://www.romania-insider.com/bucharest-university-senate-meets-over-prime-minister-plagiarism-case-ponta-could-lose-phd/64870/>

"Honor Codes Work Where Honesty Has Already Taken Root"
The Chronicle of Higher Education, September 24, 2012
<http://chronicle.com/article/Honor-Codes-Work-Where-Honesty/134542/>

"Formal investigation launched into work at dean's lab"
Times Higher Education, September 18, 2012
<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/story.asp?storycode=421188>

wise words...

"The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity.

Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, a football field, in an army, or in an office."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Finals Already?!

As the end of the semester approaches, exhausted and anxiety-ridden students can be found everywhere — studying in the library, caffeinating at local coffee shops, and sluggishly making their way to classrooms. Many see this as a part of college life. But it doesn't have to be. Why not start now planning for end of the semester papers and finals? Check out some of the articles, workshops and other resources offered by the

Enhanced Learning Center that can help you get organized and manage your time and stress.

- Finals Countdown
- Managing Your Time Effectively
- Procrastination & the Impact of Self-Talk
- Test Anxiety
- Time Management is Life Management
- Tips for Dealing with Stress
- Answering the Essay-Short Answer Exam Question
- Taming the Finals Beast
- The Effective Cram Session

For more information visit
http://elc.uark.edu/?page_id=412.

Policy FAQ >>>

"Submitting without specific permission of the instructor, work that has been previously offered by the same student for credit in another course."

Essentially, this means you can't recycle your own work. If you wrote a paper during a freshmen class and a few semesters later you are given a very similar assignment, you can't use the previous paper without permission from your instructor. Many students wonder why this is a violation, since it's their own work. The purpose of a college education is not to just get by recycling information previously developed. It's to learn.

Each semester you advance through your program you gain additional knowledge that influences your thoughts and interpretations of information. Doing the assignment again later in your college career should yield very different results.

So remember...recycling is good for the environment, but not for your education!

