Academic Integrity

What is it? and Why it Matters

Significant portions of this presentation have been adapted with permission from the work of Athena du Pre’, University of West Florida


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Academic Integrity

• Individuals who uphold academic integrity are honest and responsible when engaged in academic activities. This results in the creation of academic products that extend beyond prior contributions while giving proper credit to others whose ideas shaped or influenced the current work.
Cheating Defined

- Participating in any activity that gives you or another student an unfair advantage
Cheating includes:

• Giving or receiving test or homework answers
  ▫ Copying from another student
  ▫ Discussing what was on a test with someone who has not yet taken the test
  ▫ Working collaboratively when assignment was to be completed independently

• Using unauthorized materials on a test
  ▫ “Cheat sheets” or “crib notes” that are not allowed

Belter and du Pre´ (2009); Harrington (2013); Miller, Shoptaugh, & Wooldridge (2011)
Plagiarism Defined

• Presenting someone else’s work as your own
• “Stealing” intellectual property

Belter and du Pre´ (2009); Harrington (2013)
Plagiarism includes:

**Cut and Paste**
- Putting your name on the work (entire paper or sections) that someone else created

**Not Really Paraphrasing**
- Changing a few words in the sentence is not enough

**Citation Problems**
- Not using quotation marks when using another person’s words
- Using quotation marks but not citing the source
- Not citing what you paraphrased

Belter and du Pre´ (2009); Harrington (2013); Miller, Shoptaugh, & Wooldridge (2011)
Why it Matters...

• Honesty leads to increased learning

• Being ethical is important in careers and life

• Values build character

McCabe, Butterfield, & Trevino (2012)
Academic Dishonesty: Consequences

**Penalties**
“Any violation of the principles of academic integrity is a serious offense. Penalties imposed by the instructor can range from an alternate assignment to failure in the course. The instructor may file code of student conduct charges which may result in suspension from the College.” (Middlesex County College Catalog 2012-2013, 35)
Tips to Avoid Cheating

- **Learn** about academic integrity
- Be familiar with **college policies** (see p. 35 of 2012-2013 MCC catalog)
- Be familiar with professor expectations- **review syllabus**
- **Focus on learning** and prepare well for learning tasks
- Be ethical and honest and encourage others to **uphold academic integrity**

Belter & du Pre´ (2009)
Avoiding Cheating: Knowing What is Expected

- It’s your responsibility to know the policies and expectations.
- Focus on the purpose of the learning task.
- The syllabus should provide you with information about what is and is not acceptable (ex. Can work with others or must work independently)
- Reach out to professor with questions or for clarification

Belter & du Pre´ (2009)
Avoiding Cheating: Focus on Learning

- Focus on why you need the information and skills
  - Don’t rob yourself from learning and being prepared for what’s ahead
- Plan well to reduce pressure
  - Practice good time management
  - Study a little every day
  - Break large assignments into manageable parts
  - Seek help from professor, tutors, and librarians when needed

Belter & du Pre´(2009)
Encouraging Others to Uphold Academic Integrity

Values and Character Matter

McCabe, Butterfield, & Trevino (2012)
Tips to Avoid Plagiarism

- Focus on the **purpose** of the task
- **Plan ahead** - give yourself plenty of time for the task
- **Practice** paraphrasing
- Keep **track** of your resources
- Learn **how to cite** sources
- **Review** your work before submitting it

Belter & du Pre´ (2009); Harrington (2013)
Avoiding Plagiarism: Focusing on the Purpose of the Assignment

What is the learning goal of this assignment?

- Remember, most assignments will require YOU to share YOUR contributions while citing others who have influenced or shaped YOUR work
Avoiding Plagiarism: Paraphrasing

• Avoid using too many words or ideas of another person in your work
  ▫ Some students over rely on quotes when they struggle with paraphrasing- don’t fall into this trap
  ▫ Avoid taking notes with the source in front of you- instead- read it, close it and then write down your ideas

Harrington (2013)
Avoiding Plagiarism: Learning to Paraphrase

Example Sentence: It will be essential to consider the impact of the patient’s depression on the other members of the family.

Not acceptable

- It will be important to think about the effect of a client’s depression on the other members of the family.

Acceptable

- Proper treatment requires consideration of the negative impact that depression has, beyond the depressed patient, on the other members of the family. (include citation here)

Taken directly from Academic Integrity Module by du Pre´ (2009)
Avoiding Plagiarism: Keeping Track of Citations

• Write down entire citation as you work on the assignment
  ▫ Makes creating the Reference list at the end easy!
• Develop a system to keep your notes/content connected to the source
  ▫ Notecards- write source on back
  ▫ Computer- make notation of which source (include name, author, page number)
Why do we need to cite sources?

- To document where the information or idea originated
- To give credit to author
- To provide reader with information so that he or she can go to original source for more information and details on the subject matter

Belter & du Pre´ (2009)
# What do we need to cite?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need to Cite:</th>
<th>Do NOT Need to Cite:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Someone else’s words or work</td>
<td>• Ideas that are purely your own</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▫ must use quotation marks when using direct words</td>
<td>▫ Common knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Paraphrased thoughts or ideas (basically any idea that is not purely your own)</td>
<td>▫ When in doubt, cite it!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Harrington (2013)
When do we need to cite sources?

- Whenever you are using the ideas, thoughts, or works of another to create a product
- Includes
  - Papers
    - In-text and on Reference page
  - Presentations
    - Cite sources on slides
  - Other works
    - Includes images, media, etc.
Citation Styles

Most Commonly Used Styles

APA

MLA

In-text Citations for Paraphrased Information

Harrington (2013)
Helpful Citation Websites

Modern Language Association (MLA)
- MLA Website and Manual Information
- Purdue University

American Psychological Association (APA)
- APA Website and Manual Information
- Purdue University

KnightCite Citation: General Citation Assistance
Avoiding Plagiarism: Reviewing Your Work

• Review entire paper and add citations if it is NOT:
  ▫ Your own words
  ▫ Common knowledge

• Be sure all of your in-text citations are included on your Reference page
References