

MiraCosta College highly values academic integrity. At the core, this means producing an honest representation of one's own work. MiraCosta College also promotes the approach that education is best accomplished as a cooperative, collaborative enterprise in which students are encouraged to work with and learn from each other. The line between academic integrity and collaborative education is not always easy to define and may vary from one discipline to the next and from one instructor to the next. Many aspects of cheating and plagiarism are universally recognized, while others are subject to debate.

This policy provides general guidelines that outline common definitions of academic dishonesty and affirms the right of instructors to employ more detailed academic integrity policies according to their preferences and practices when teaching their respective courses. Faculty are strongly encouraged to outline their policies on their course syllabus. Students are encouraged to review each course syllabus to understand the academic integrity policies of the faculty and course.

Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Cheating: Copying work or using unauthorized aids, including but not limited to technology such as cell phones or watches, during an examination, quiz, or assignment.
- B. Plagiarizing: Copying work or ideas, including but not limited to the use of unauthorized electronic aids, and misrepresenting them as one's own.
- C. Falsification: Making up fictitious information and presenting it as factual or altering records for the purpose of misrepresentation.
- D. Facilitation: Helping another student to cheat, plagiarize, or falsify information. Some examples include writing a paper for another student, sharing work where it may be searched and submitted by others, referring a student to those sources, or knowingly allowing a student to copy one's own work.

There are two areas that address concerns about behavior that may be deemed a violation of academic integrity. These areas are: (1) faculty-initiated remedies and (2) referrals to the Office of Student Affairs to address alleged violations of Administrative Procedure 5500: Standards of Student Conduct.

- (1) Faculty-initiated remedies for violations of academic integrity may include a verbal warning, a lowered assignment grade, and/or submission of an academic integrity report to the Office of Student Affairs. Instructors may consult with the dean of Student Affairs or their designee to review appropriate remedies per state statutes and codes. Students have the right to appeal faculty-initiated remedies as outlined in Administrative Procedure 5505: Academic Integrity - Appeal Process.

- (2) Faculty are encouraged to submit reports of alleged violations of Administrative Procedure 5500: Standards of Student Conduct to the Office of Student Affairs. The Office of Student Affairs provides an educational experience for students when there are alleged violations of the Standards of Student Conduct to decrease the likelihood of recurrence. In particular, if the student has allegedly violated the Standards of Student Conduct before, the Office of Student Affairs may address alleged violations as outlined in Administrative Procedure 5520: Student Conduct Procedures.

See Administrative Procedure 5500: Standards of Student Conduct and Administrative Procedure 5520: Student Conduct Procedures for additional information.