
Academic Integrity at SPS

What does it mean?

As members of the Columbia University community, all students are expected to uphold the highest standards of respect, integrity, and civility. These core values are key components of the Columbia University experience and reflect the community's expectations of its students. Students are expected to conduct themselves in an honest, civil, and respectful manner in all aspects of their lives. Students who violate standards of behavior related to academic or behavioral conduct interfere with their ability, and the ability of others, to take advantage of the full complement of University life, and will thus be subject to Dean's Discipline.

Academic misconduct violates the principle of intellectual integrity that is the foundation of our institution. To violate that principle is one of the most serious offenses a student can commit. Faculty and instructors may list specific expectations on a course syllabus and examples of academic misconduct are listed in the Bulletin and policies of the schools at Columbia University.

Examples of Academic Integrity Violations

Facilitation of academic dishonesty: Enabling another to engage in dishonest academic behavior.

Cheating: To give or receive assistance from written material, another person, their paper, or any other source during an examination or test; or to (attempt to) hire someone to take your exam for you.

Bribery: Offering or giving any favor or something of value for the purpose of improperly influencing a grade or other evaluation of a student.

Plagiarism of self: The submission of one piece of work in more than one course without the explicit permission of their instructors involved.

Unauthorized giving/taking of academic materials: Giving unauthorized assistance to another student or receiving unauthorized aid from another person without the instructor's express permission.

Sabotage: Inappropriately and deliberately harming or attempting to harm someone else's academic performance.

Violation(s) of testing conditions: Compromising a testing environment or violating specific testing conditions; to intentionally or unintentionally create access to an unfair advantage.

Unauthorized collaboration: Collaboration on academic work without an instructor's permission; this includes, but is not limited to, unauthorized collaboration on tests, assignments, quizzes, and projects.

Obtaining advanced knowledge: Unauthorized advance access to exams or other assignments without an instructor's permission.

Lying to a faculty member: Lying about circumstances related to your academic work or failure to complete academic work; falsification, forgery, or misrepresentation of information to any University official in order to gain an unfair academic advantage in coursework.

What happens when a student violates the Standard of Behavior?

Administrative Resolution

Administrative Resolution is a non-disciplinary resolution option that can take place when faculty does not want to engage in the Dean's Discipline resolution process. In these cases, faculty are encouraged to communicate with students regarding their concerns and the evaluative and grading expectations for the particular assignment.

Dean's Discipline Process & Hearing

Dean's Discipline is the disciplinary resolution option utilized to investigate and respond to allegations of academic misconduct. Dean's Discipline is not meant to be an adversarial or legal process but primarily an educational and reflective dialogue. Through the process, managed by Student Conduct and Community Standards (SCCS), students discuss accountability for their behavior as well as the impact their behavior may have on their own lives and the greater community. SCCS expects that students will act honestly and respectfully through the Dean's Discipline process.

As it is a disciplinary process, a student found responsible for a violation of academic integrity will be subject to appropriate sanctions. However, the Dean's Discipline process is also an educational one designed to challenge students to make better decisions and facilitate a broader understanding of the impact their behavior may have on the Columbia Community.

Academic Integrity Pledge

As a member of the Columbia Community, I pledge to engage in honest and ethical behavior by utilizing only my own physical and intellectual property in pursuit of academic excellence. As a global student and innovative leader, I will abide by the University Student Code of Conduct and represent myself and my community with integrity at all times.

By signing your name below, you affirm that you have read and understood this document, and intend to honor the principles of academic integrity central to the Columbia University community.

Print Full Name: _____

Sign Full Name: _____

Date: _____