Carnegie Mellon University

A look back to understand our academic values of today

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Graduate Student Orientation 2016
New Master’s Students
University seal[photograph]. University Archives, Hunt Library. Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA.
CMU’s Vision

Carnegie Mellon University will have a transformative impact on society through continual innovation in education, research, creativity, and entrepreneurship.
Carnegie Mellon Code
Carnegie Mellon Code

Students at Carnegie Mellon, because they are members of an academic community dedicated to the achievement of excellence, are expected to meet the highest standards of personal, ethical and moral conduct possible. These standards require personal integrity, a commitment to honesty without compromise, as well as truth without equivocation and a willingness to place the good of the community above the good of the self. Obligations once undertaken must be met, commitments kept.

As members of the Carnegie Mellon community, individuals are expected to uphold the standards of the community in addition to holding others accountable for said standards. It is rare that the life of a student in an academic community can be so private that it will not affect the community as a whole or that the above standards do not apply.

The discovery, advancement and communication of knowledge are not possible without a commitment to these standards. Creativity cannot exist without acknowledgment of the creativity of others. New knowledge cannot be developed without credit for prior knowledge. Without the ability to trust that these principles will be observed, an academic community cannot exist. The commitment of its faculty, staff and students to these standards contributes to the high respect in which the Carnegie Mellon degree is held. Students must not destroy that respect by their failure to meet these standards. Students who cannot meet them should voluntarily withdraw from the University.
Policy on Academic Integrity

In any manner of presentation, it is the responsibility of each student to produce her/his own original academic work.

- Students must clarify any expectations that they do not understand.
- Collaboration or assistance prohibited unless authorized by instructor.
- All sources must be cited within submitted work.
- When permitted, collaboration or assistance must also be acknowledged.
Case reports

How many academic integrity cases were reported across the campus in the 2015-2016 academic year?

A. 0-75
B. 76-125
C. 126-150
D. 170+
Students

What percentage of these cases involve graduate students?

A. 0-25%
B. 26-50%
C. 51-75%
D. 76-100%
Defining Possible Violations

- **Cheating**
  - Availing oneself of an unfair or disallowed advantage

- **Plagiarism**
  - Using work or concepts contributed by other individuals without proper attribution or citation

- **Unauthorized assistance**
  - Using sources of support that have not been specifically authorized in the university policy statement or by the course instructor(s) in the completion of academic work to be graded.
Unauthorized assistance

• Allowing another student to copy from you during an exam
• Passively allowing another student to copy your homework or paper
• Collaborating with peers about a solution set prior to attempting to solve them individually
• Rewriting passages of a friend’s paper that you are proofreading so they sound better
Cheating

• Consulting the homework solutions from last semester’s section of the same course
• Changing your lab results to reflect what you know they should have been rather than what you actually got
• Changing a few answers on a graded exam before turning it in to be “re-graded”
Plagiarism

• Failing to properly format the citations in a bibliography or reference list
• Using an idea from a website in a paper without citing the original author
• Copying text from a well-written published paper, changing a few words, and not referencing the original paper
Types of violations

Which type of violation was most frequently reported?

A. Plagiarism
B. Unauthorized assistance
C. Cheating
Questions for your instructors

• What are your expectations for citations?
  • Course material (lecture, discussion, textbook)
  • Other sources (personal communication, self)
  • Preferred convention
• Are we allowed to use external sources?
• Are we permitted to work with other students?
  • On which assignments?
  • To what extent?
  • What type of acknowledgment is required?
• What assistance is available to me if I am having trouble with an assignment?
Questions for your department

• What are your expectations for your students around academic integrity?
• What resources are available to me if I am having trouble in a particular course?
• What resources are available to me if I am experiencing personal difficulty?
• What are the consequences of a first violation of academic integrity?
• What are the consequences of subsequent violations?
A note on intellectual property

- May seem counterintuitive given institutional tradition of collaboration
- Traditions of hard work and problem solving are equally important
- Guard your intellectual property with the same degree of care that you would use for your personal property
- Once your work leaves your (physical or virtual) control, you do not know how it will be used by someone else
Reporting Procedures

“Academic Disciplinary Actions Procedures for Graduate Students”

• Protocol that guides how to report and to whom
• Outlines appeal processes for students
• Gives authority to the Provost to make final determinations in matters involving grad students
Common Consequences

Course level*
- Zero on assignment
- Negative points assessed
- Reduced course grade
- “R” = course failure

Departmental
- Loss of funding and/or other privileges
- Suspension
- Drop

University
- Suspension
- Expulsion

*Students who receive an “R” as course level action as a result of an academic integrity violations are not permitted to drop the course in question.
Related Resources

• Office of Community Standards and Integrity, 412-268-2140
  • OCSI@andrew.cmu.edu
• Academic Integrity @ Carnegie Mellon
  www.cmu.edu/academic-integrity
• Policy on Academic Integrity
  http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/AcademicIntegrity.htm
• Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence, 412-268-2896
  www.cmu.edu/teaching/eberlycenter
• Global Communications Center, 412-268-9633
  http://www.cmu.edu/gcc/index.html
• Intercultural Communication Center, 412-268-4979
  www.cmu.edu/icc
Questions?