

## **Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a key component of the core values of Lake Superior State University. All members of the University community are expected to be honorable and ethical and observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. Students are expected to behave in an ethical manner. The University community will not tolerate academic dishonesty as such behavior will cause harm to the reputation of students, faculty, and graduates of the institution. Such dishonorable behavior includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and obtaining an unfair advantage. These terms are defined below:

### Cheating

Cheating is defined as using or attempting to use unauthorized materials or information of any kind during an exam or graded assignment of any kind. Using notes, texts, help from individuals, or copying information from another individual's exam, or by using electronic or any other means constitutes cheating unless such resources are EXPLICITLY allowed by the instructor.

### Fabrication

Fabrication is any unauthorized falsification, invention, or copying of data, falsification of information, citations, or bibliographic references in any academic work. It also includes falsifying any academic record or other University document.

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is representing someone else's work as one's own. Failing to cite references or presenting material, verbatim or paraphrased that is not acknowledged and cited also constitutes plagiarism.

### Obtaining an Unfair Advantage

Academic integrity is violated when one obtains an unfair advantage by stealing, reproducing, circulating, or otherwise gaining access to examination materials before they are distributed by the instructor. Also prohibited are stealing, destroying, defacing, or concealing library materials with the purpose of depriving others of their use.

### Possible Sanctions for Offenses

It is in the best interest of the University community to sanction any individual who chooses not to accept the principles of academic honesty by engaging in the above acts. Appropriate sanctions may include failure of an assignment or exam, failure of a course, or dismissal from the University.

### Faculty and University Responsibilities

Unless the faculty member has explicitly specified otherwise, students are to assume that exams are individual, closed book, and without the use of notes or similar reference materials. Unless specifically allowed by the faculty member, papers, projects, and similar products are expected to be the original individual work of the student. If notes, texts, other reference materials, group work or similar activities are to be allowed, the faculty member will specify what is permitted for a particular assignment or exam prior to disseminating the assignment or exam.

A faculty member who observes a violation in one or more of the above areas shall meet with the student to address the violation. If, in the judgment of the faculty member, academic integrity has been violated, the faculty member will impose the appropriate sanction, either a failure for the assignment or exam, or failure for the course. The faculty member will then file an *Academic Integrity Incident Report* with the department chair, dean, the Provost's Office, and the office of Student Affairs. This report will be kept in the Provost's Office as well as in the office of the Vice President of Student Affairs for a period of five years. A copy of this report will also be placed in the student's advising file. Academic Departments or Schools may have additional policies and procedures that could provide further recommendations to the Provost's Office when instances of academic dishonesty are suspected. This policy is also applicable in the Testing Center.

In cases of egregious or repeated violations, it may be determined by the faculty member, his/her department chair, or dean, that dismissal from the University is warranted. In this case, the chair of the Scholastic Standards Committee and the student will be notified. The Scholastic Standards Committee will then conduct a hearing in which the student is granted due process. If the committee decides that dismissal from the university is warranted, the student will have five school days to appeal the decision to the Provost of the University. The Provost may either affirm the decision to dismiss, or reinstate the student and provide a rationale for doing so.