

Academic Integrity in Graduate Education & Research

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Objectives

The assurance of integrity in graduate education and research is of paramount concern.

Academic and scholarly activity at the graduate level takes many forms at the University of Toledo, including, but not limited to, classroom activity, laboratory or field experience, and artistic expression.

The Graduate College at the University of Toledo upholds the highest ethical standards in its teaching, research, and service missions.

Concerns

- Academic Dishonesty is on the rise.
- Professional Scientific misconduct is on the rise.

Presentation Purpose

Overview of Academic Integrity (AI)

- *Who* must practice AI?
- *What* is AI?
- *When* to apply AI principles.
- *Why* accomplish an AI culture at UT?
- *How* to prevent academic dishonesty.
- *Where* to learn more about AI topics.

WHO

- Academic Community
 - Administration
 - Faculty
 - Students
 - Research Staff
 - Support Staff
 - Alumni
 - All other stakeholders

What is Academic Integrity?

- **Behavior** that abides by a set of principles of right conduct that are part of the overarching ethics of our community.
- **Behavior** that abides by a set of values that informs academic actions such that the UT Mission and Vision can be achieved.
- The desired **academic culture**.

UT MISSION

- The mission of The University of Toledo is to improve the human condition; to advance knowledge through excellence in learning, discovery and engagement; and to serve as a diverse, student-centered public metropolitan research university.

Six UT CORE VALUES

- Principles and values of Academic Integrity are subsumed in the University of Toledo's Core Values.
- All UT stakeholders are expected to ***behave*** in manner congruent with the UT core values.

UT Core Values

I. Compassion, Professionalism and Respect: Treat every individual with **kindness, dignity and care**; consider the thoughts and ideas of others inside and outside of the University with a strong commitment to exemplary personal and institutional **altruism, accountability, integrity and honor**;

UT Core Values

III. Diversity, Integrity and Teamwork: Create an environment that values and fosters diversity; earn the **trust** and commitment of colleagues and the communities served; provide a collaborative and **supportive work environment, based upon stewardship and advocacy**, that adheres to the highest **ethical** standard;

UT Core Values

V. Excellence, Focus and Innovation: Strive, individually and collectively, to achieve the **highest level** of focus, quality and pride in all endeavors; continuously improve operations; engage in reflective planning and innovative risk-taking in an environment of **academic freedom** and **responsibility**; and

Purpose UT Core Values

- Provide a set of principles to guide our conduct such that our mission and strategic goals can be achieved.
- Guide our policies and procedures to put the principles into action.
- The core values apply to all stakeholders in our UT community.
- As a result, the highest quality of student learning and pursuit of truth should occur.

What is Academic Integrity?

- Academic Integrity is part of UT core values.
- Academic Integrity applies to specific actions required for the highest quality of learning, discovery and pursuit of truth.

http://www.academicintegrity.org/fundamental_values_project/index.php

http://www.academicintegrity.org/fundamental_values_project/pdf/FVProject.pdf

What is Academic Integrity?

- “The Center for Academic Integrity (CAI) defines academic integrity as a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action. The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity describes these core values in detail.”

What behavior is NOT
congruent with academic
integrity?

Examples of
Academic Dishonesty

Academic *Honesty*

- The definitions and rules are common around the world.
- It is expected and assumed that graduate students learned the principles of *Honesty* in their K-12 and undergraduate education.

Academic *Dishonesty*

“Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Among the aims of education are the acquisition of knowledge and development of the skills necessary for success as an educator or in another profession. Activities inconsistent with these aims will not be permitted. Graduate students are responsible for knowing what constitutes academic dishonesty; if students are uncertain, for example about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, they should seek the instructor’s advice.”

Examples of Academic Dishonesty

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

- Plagiarism, which is representing the words, ideas, or information of another person as one’s own and not offering proper documentation.
- Giving or receiving, prior to an examination, any unauthorized information concerning the content of that examination.
- Referring to or displaying any unauthorized materials inside or outside of the examination room during the course of an examination.
- Communicating during an examination in any manner with any unauthorized materials inside or outside of the examination room during the course of an examination.”

Examples of Academic Dishonesty

- “Giving or receiving substantive aid during the course of an examination.
- Commencing an examination before the stipulated time or continuing to work on an examination after the announced conclusion of the examination period.
- Taking, converting, concealing, defacing, damaging or destroying any property related to the preparation or completion of assignments, research or examination.
- Submitting the same written work to fulfill the requirements for more than one course.”

Examples of Plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- Downloading a free research paper from the internet.
- Purchasing a paper from a “paper mill”.
- Hiring a ghost writer.
- Direct copy from the written or electronic sources- without quotes and citation.
- Use of one paper for more than one course.
- Misuse of resources (Sloppy citation).
 - Quote marks without citation
 - Wrong citation in paper
- Faking citation.
- Paraphrasing without appropriate citation.

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- *Intentional and unintentional* plagiarism is considered inappropriate by all professional organizations and academic institutions.
 - Due the fact it is impossible to unequivocally distinguish between intentional and unintentional plagiarism, they are treated the same with equal consequences.

Why do students cheat, plagiarize, etc..?

- Do not know what plagiarism is.
- Changes in technology have lead to misunderstandings and misuse.
- “I bought the book, so I own the ideas”.
- Take short cuts because of pressures in time. (copy)
- Poor time management and planning.
- Insecurity in skills.
- Do not care and feel entitled.
- Do not think they will be caught.

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- **Faculty use several strategies to evaluate student work for cheating and plagiarism.**
 - **Faculty are required to report cases of academic dishonesty.**

What are outcomes of academic dishonesty at UT?

“Should cases of academic dishonesty be found among students, the instructor may counsel the student or impose one of the following sanctions:

- The student may be assigned an F for the work in question.
- The student may be assigned an F for the course. In this case the instructor should inform the student of this action and follow their college procedures. The student is not permitted to withdraw from the course.
- The student may be placed on probation or suspended for some definite period of time, dismissed or expelled by the dean of the college if either the seriousness of the offense or a record of repeated offenses warrants it. A notation that such a sanction has been imposed will be made part of the student’s permanent record. It is expected that the college dean will consult with the instructor and the student in making such a judgment, and that the dean will notify the student of the sanction imposed and of the appeals procedure.”

When to apply principles of Academic Integrity

- All academic activities
 - Classroom
 - On-line learning environment
 - Scholarship activities
 - Artistic activities
 - Research activities
 - Service activities
 - more....

Why accomplish a culture of Academic Integrity at UT?

- Acts of academic dishonesty compromise these core values and undermine the process by which knowledge is created, shared and evaluated.
- Repeated offenses cast suspicion not only upon the integrity of individuals, but also damage the reputation of the larger academic community.
- Devalues worth of the degree.

How to prevent academic dishonesty

- Unfortunately, not everyone applies the core values in same way.
- To afford due process- Policies and procedures are developed to guide implementation and provide due process when one is caught.
- Part of your responsibility and right to due process is to know the UT expectations, policies and procedures.

UT Academic Integrity Policies

- Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Policy
- Graduate Student Thesis and Dissertation Format guidelines
- COGS Academic Standards Policy
- Graduate Student Academic Grievance Policy

- Policies specific to your College program

Policies

- Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)
- UT policies that are aligned with Federal Office of Research Integrity (ORI) which supports several programs designed to promote education and training in the responsible conduct of research (RCR) that covers nine instructional areas:
 - <http://ori.dhhs.gov/education>
 - http://www.utoledo.edu/research/RC/RCR_Training/RCRTraining.html

Where to learn more

- UT has several strategies to help you prevent purposeful or accidental academic dishonesty.

Where to learn more

- Three mandatory supplemental online presentations for Graduate Student Orientation.
 - Academic Integrity
 - Harassment
 - Diversity

Where to learn more

- Course faculty should provide clear instructions of expectations- if they do not, it is your right to ask for clarity and guidance. This does not mean faculty should teach you how to write, paraphrase, use citations, etc.. It is your responsibility to learn or re-learn what you should have known before coming to graduate school.
- Use the appropriate format for writing. Consult with your individual course faculty and faculty mentor for required format.
- Familiarize yourself with your program College web site resources

Where to learn more

LibGuides UT Libraries

- Intellectual Property LibGuide

<http://libguides.utoledo.edu/intellectualproperty>

- Plagiarism tab on the Intellectual Property

<http://libguides.utoledo.edu/content.php?pid=102028&sid=1065810>

- Citation Guide

<http://libguides.utoledo.edu/citationguide>

Where to learn more

- UT eWriting Center has both online and human resources for refreshing skills of writing.
 - Format references for APA, MLA, etc.
- <http://www.utoledo.edu/centers/writingcenter/index.html>

Where to learn more

- The University Library
 - Library Guides, Help Sheets and Pathfinders
- <http://www.utoledo.edu/library/help/guides/index.html>

Where to learn more

- The COGS Handbook for the Preparation of Graduate Dissertations and Theses

- <http://www.utoledo.edu/graduate/currentstudents/index.html>

Where to learn more

- Professional Development programs- monitor the COGS web site for upcoming announcements
- <http://www.utoledo.edu/graduate/currentstudents/index.html>

Positive Assumptions

- We assume that everyone of you have the right intentions.
- We assume that the vast majority of you understand, have a commitment to, and behave with the utmost academic integrity.

However.....

- The stressors of Graduate School will challenge you at times in ways you might not predict today.
- Some of you are a bit “rusty” in your scholarship skills and could unknowingly violate the principles and values of academic integrity.

Therefore.....

- We ask you to take time now and review these principles of behavior to validate your understanding or revise your understanding.
- Initiate action to prevent unintentional academic dishonesty.
- We ask you to support each other and encourage academic integrity behavior with renewed compassion, respect and commitment.

Conclusions

- Enjoy your new academic journey!
- Behavior that is guided by the principles of academic integrity and UT core values will help you achieve the highest quality of student learning and pursuit of truth.

Concerns? Questions?

- You may contact Dr. Pocotte

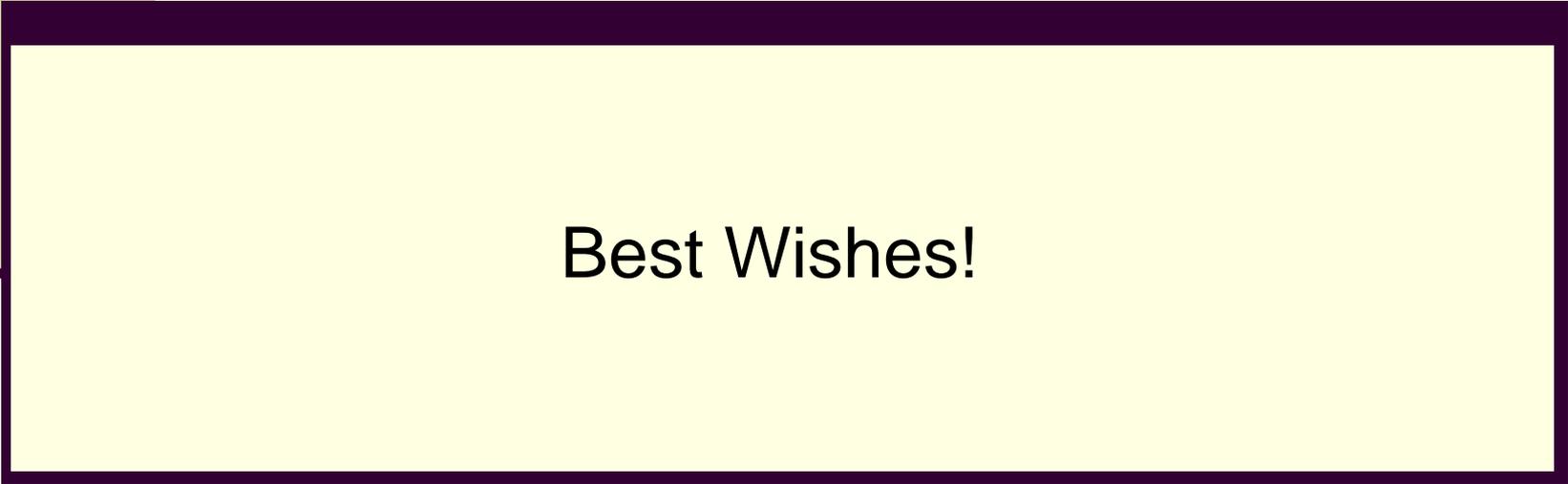
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Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

College of Graduate Studies



Thank you!



Best Wishes!

COGS Mission

- The mission of the College of Graduate Studies is to provide leadership for graduate education through exceptional support services for graduate students and faculty; to foster quality in graduate education, research and scholarship; to nurture the diversity and collegiality of graduate programs; and to work with Graduate Council to establish university graduate policies, standards and procedures that define best practices for the graduate programs it serves.