



# Academic Integrity

International Student Services – Texas A&M University

In the United States, higher education institutions are very concerned with maintaining strict standards of behavior when it comes to learning. Students who are enrolled in colleges and universities are expected to have a real interest in their education. It is okay for students to seek limited help when having trouble with studying or homework, but some students choose to have others do all or some of their work for them. Also, students may choose to copy the work of others in an effort to save time or effort. These are all serious violations of Texas A&M's standards of academic integrity. Even knowing about a violation and not reporting it to your professor is a violation.

## The Aggie Honor Code

*“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, and or tolerate those who do”*

## Importance of Academic Integrity

*Academic integrity is just as important as any other aspect of your life as an international student.*

Many foreign countries maintain standards of academic integrity that are different than those in the United States. As one of the leading nations for research, here it is important to know and follow the standards used in the US. Similarly, Texas A&M is a significant research university in the United States. Many of our faculties are specially selected for their ability to conduct and guide advanced research projects. The result is that Texas A&M maintains standards that are high even for US universities. Here, research methodology is just as important as the content of your papers.

As international students, academic integrity violations may have more serious results for you than for other students. Failure to follow academic integrity guidelines may result in the loss of scholarships, expulsion from the university, or even difficulties with your legal immigration status. Also, penalties for violations increase as you receive more education. Cheating or plagiarizing while an undergraduate may result in a suspension or a grade of 'F' in one course, but cheating or plagiarizing while in graduate school could result in complete expulsion, or even losing your degree.

## Types of Academic Misconduct

There are several types of academic misconduct. The six most common ones that you should be aware of are:

1. **Cheating** - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise.
2. **Fabrication** - Making up data or results, and recording or reporting them; submitting fabricated documents.
3. **Falsification** - Manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.

4. **Multiple Submissions** - Submitting substantial portions of the same work (including oral reports) for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor of the class for which the student submits the work.
5. **Plagiarism** - The appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.
6. **Complicity** - Intentionally or knowingly helping, or attempting to help, another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

## **If you are accused of Academic Misconduct**

Becoming a professional scholar and researcher is a learning process and takes several years. During this time, your professors will be instructing you on proper research methodology and conduct. Initially, however, you may accidentally violate one or more of these standards. If you are accused of academic misconduct, especially in regard to your research, ***the most important thing is to talk to your professor to understand exactly what you did wrong and how to correct it.*** Your professors care very strongly about these issues, and are willing to help clarify any misunderstandings you may have about these rules.

If you have spoken to your professor and you still feel that you have not committed academic misconduct, an official process is available to help resolve these issues. If you and your professor cannot resolve the situation, discuss the matter with the head of your academic department. You are also encouraged to contact International Student Services (ISS) so that they may assist you through this process.

## **Preventing Academic Misconduct**

It is always better not to have these misunderstandings. To avoid the hassles and embarrassment of being accused of academic misconduct, familiarize yourself with the available resources for proper studying, researching, and writing. Available resources are available on the internet, or at the University Writing Center, Evans Library Resource Desk, through your Professors, on the Honor Code website <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/know.html>. You can always ask your classmates if you are unsure of what to do.