



Academic Dishonesty: What it is and how you can avoid it.

Many people think that they know what academic dishonesty is; avoid copying on a test and turn in a paper you wrote, and you're golden! However, the digital/commercial age we live in has made things murkier, and it is important to outline some of the things that violate New England College's Code of Academic Integrity.

New England College's Academic Catalog (2008) states "A student is expected to be the author of all course work (including tests, papers, laboratory work, art projects, etc.) he/she submits, whether for a grade or not. By seeking credit or recognition for work that is not his/her own, a student engages in an act of academic dishonesty that is a serious offense in a college community"(p.75).

Here are some of the types of academic dishonesty in which it is possible to engage:

Cheating

- Copying from other students during an exam
- Using "aids" such as crib sheets to answer questions during a test.
- Taking a test for another person or having someone else take it for you.
- Collaborating on a take-home test with other students if not sanctioned by the professor.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism generally means representing someone else's ideas or words as your own work. But it also covers:

- Having a paper written or researched for you by a classmate OR a third-party (such as an online paper mill).
- Copying passages or using work without citing properly or giving credit to the author.
- Using someone else's outline to write your paper or project.
- Having someone else come up with, and post materials under your name for an academic class (such as in a Blackboard Discussion or a required online posting)

General Dishonesty

- Submitting a paper/project written for one class , and resubmitting it to a different one without consulting the professor beforehand.
- Trying to get advanced copies of tests or keys beforehand.
- Hiring any commercial service(such as "ghostwriter," "paper mill" or "test-taker") for an assignment.

This is not meant to scare anyone, rather to serve as a guide and a warning. Because of all the services that NEC provides (such as the NEC faculty, the Academic Support Center, and the Library) any questions you have about avoiding academic dishonesty can be answered quickly and all of these places are willing to work with you to create great papers and projects!

Here are some general guidelines to avoid academic sanctions for dishonesty:

- Learn to cite correctly, and when you are in doubt; cite it or ask a professor. There are a few main types of citation for academic papers (APA, MLA, Chicago/Turabian, CSE and AMA). Find out the style for your discipline, and then make sure you use it. There are many websites available (as well as people) who are more than willing to help with citations!
- Author any work for your classes (whether it be papers, projects, discussion posts, reference lists) by yourself. If you collaborate on a project or a paper, make sure your collaboration is all you do. Your work must be unique!
- Again, avoid hiring/borrowing papers or projects from other students. The internet makes plagiarism and cheating easier, but it also simplifies being caught for it. Many professors use Turnitin, or other online tools if they are in doubt of a paper's authorship.
- If you run up against a dilemma, talk to someone about it (like a professor)! They will be more than willing to point you in the right direction.

Penalties for violating the Academic Code:

"A student who cheats or plagiarizes will receive a failing grade on the work in which the dishonesty occurred or may, if in the instructor's opinion the work is of major significance in the total course, receive a failing grade for that course. Instances of cheating or plagiarizing must be reported to the Registrar. If a second report of cheating or plagiarism occurs, the student will be subject to expulsion. In such a case, the Academic Standards Committee will make a recommendation to the Vice President of Academic Affairs, who will make the final decision" (*New England College Academic Catalog*, 2008, p.75).

An education is too important to waste on an easy A in a course. Do your own work and give credit where credit is due, and you will be golden!

Have questions? Need help? Contact your librarians at (603)428-2344 or at libraryhelp@nec.edu