

Rowan University Academic Integrity Seminar

ruaic.org
submissions@ruaic.org

Seminar objectives

- Discuss meaning of academic integrity.
- Reflect on factors that contribute to academic integrity violations.
- Identify potential strategies for making good decisions when faced with these factors.
- Reflect on why a personal commitment to academic integrity should matter to *everyone*.

Academic integrity values

Professors and students need to demonstrate

- Responsibility
- Honesty
- Trust
- Fairness
- Respect

What does an academic integrity violation violate?

- Academic integrity violations diminish the quality of the teaching and learning environment by undermining its central values.
- Academic integrity violations result in graduates with lower skill levels, therefore damaging the University's reputation and reducing the value of a Rowan degree.
- Several studies have found that students who commit academic integrity violations are more likely to commit ethical violations later in their professional careers and personal lives.

Integrity Violations Outside of the University

- Vice President Joe Biden's presidential campaign was ruined in 1988 when one of his speeches and his law school work was found to contain plagiarism.
- July 2014, *BuzzFeed* writer [Benny Johnson was fired](#) after editors discovered forty-one instances of lifting sentences and phrases from other writing online.
- Atlanta, GA: Public schools had teachers altering answers on standardized tests to raise scores; superintendent was indicted.
- Robin Thicke noticeably ripped off
- Marvin Gaye's 1977 hit "Got to Give It Up" when he wrote the smash hit
- "Blurred Lines" with Pharrell Williams
- and T.I. He and co-songwriter
- Pharrell Williams must pay Gaye's family
- \$7.3 million as part of the ruling.

More examples of violations

- <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-global-universities/articles/2012/05/02/10-high-profile-people-whose-degrees-were-revoked>
- President of Hungary; German Minister of Defense

Contributing factors

- The five values we just discussed are at the core of educational experiences and relationships.
- Yet, academic integrity violations are common. Why?
- Conflicts over values become factors that contribute to academic integrity violations:
 - We don't live up to our values.
 - We are under pressure from competing values.

Dealing with contributing factors

- ▣ The conduct of others is not necessarily a good standard for your own conduct.
- Develop a personal commitment to academic integrity: *DO THE RIGHT THING.*
- ▣ You will continue to face pressures because of competing values during your academic career and beyond.
- Develop strategies for addressing conflicts over values: *SEEK HELP AND ADVICE.*
- ▣ Education is about learning. Do not procrastinate – *GIVE YOURSELF TIME* to work on assignments, and ask for help if needed.
- Develop a plan for strengthening your academic skills (for example, writing, research, and citation skills; time management; etc.): *BE PROACTIVE.*

Resources

- Your professor, or any professor
- Department chair or Advisor
- (256-4376)
- [Counseling Center \(256-4222\)](#)
- [Academic Success Center \(256-4234\)](#)
- (256-4459)
- Dean of Students (256-4283)
- Office of Academic Affairs (256-5140)

Assignment: Short essay

- Summarize your academic integrity violation, including the context, your actions, and the contributing factors that you feel led to your actions.
- Summarize what you learned from this seminar about why your actions constitute an academic integrity violation.
- Describe a specific personal strategy you will use in the future to strengthen your commitment to academic integrity.
- Recommend a strategy for the University to use in the future to strengthen its commitment to academic integrity.

Selected references

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- Nonis, S, and Swift, C. O. (November/December 2001). An examination of the relationship between academic dishonesty and workplace dishonesty: a multicampus investigation. *Journal of Education for Business*, 69-77.
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