



Understanding Academic Integrity



The International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI) defines academic integrity as a commitment to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility in any activity related to academic work and avoiding any kind of cheating or dishonest action (International Center for Academic Integrity, 2014, p.16).

Academic integrity is a shared responsibility. It is the student's role to educate themselves about what academic integrity means and it is their responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner that is reflective of that. It is faculty member's responsibility to contribute to the student's understanding of what academic integrity means. Faculty members will also take reasonable steps to prevent and detect academic dishonesty. When academic dishonesty is suspected or confirmed, the faculty member will take appropriate action (TRU, 2020, p. 1).

General Guidelines to Increase your Knowledge about Academic Integrity and the Process at TRU:

1. Review TRU Policy ED 5-0:
https://www.tru.ca/shared/assets/ED_05-0_Student_Academic_Integrity36334.pdf
2. Review the information about Academic Integrity on the TRU Website:
<https://www.tru.ca/current/student-life/osa/aic.html>
3. Review the Academic Integrity process to understand steps in the reporting process:
https://www.tru.ca/shared/assets/Academic_Integrity_Flow_Chart_Current_Students46194.pdf
4. Dialogue with your colleagues about Academic Integrity
5. Ask questions and seek out guidance
6. Create a Culture of Integrity in your classroom
7. Plan how you will introduce Academic Integrity in your learning environment – consider using activities
8. Be comfortable talking about the different types of Academic Dishonesty – use examples
9. Learn about Contract Cheating: paying a third party to complete an assignment and submitting as your own (Newton & Lang, 2016)
10. Use consistent language from ED 5-0 when talking about Academic Integrity
11. Be aware of available TRU Support for students
 - TRU Libraries: <https://libguides.tru.ca/plagiarism>
 - TRU Writing Centre: <http://www.tru.ca/writingcentre.html>
 - STSS 1070-Performing to Academic Standards: <https://www.tru.ca/calendar/current/STSS1070.htm>
 - Language Learning Centre: <https://www.tru.ca/edsw/schools-and-departments/esl/resources.html#language-learning-centre>
 - Student Affairs: <https://tru.ca/osa>

Summary of the Forms of Academic Dishonesty (TRU, 2020)

Cheating is an act of deception by which a student misrepresents (or assists another student in misrepresenting) that he or she has mastered information on an assignment, test, project or other academic exercise that the student has not mastered.

Examples could include:

- Copying from another student's test paper or assignment.
- Allowing another student to copy from a test paper or assignments.
- Using the course textbook, electronic devices, or other material such as a notebook not authorized for use during a test.
- Collaborating during a test with any other person by receiving information without authority.
- Using exam aids or other non-authorized materials during a test (e.g., notes, formula lists, crib sheets etc.).

Academic Misconduct is the intentional violation of TRU academic procedures by tampering with grades, taking part in obtaining or distributing any part of a test (un-administered or otherwise), or by other means of academic deception not explicitly identified in other sections of this policy.

Examples could include:

- Stealing, buying, or otherwise obtaining all or part of a test, answer key, grade or other document by any means.
- Selling or making available to another all or part of a test or assignment, including answers to a test.
- Obtaining an un-administered test or any information about the test from another person.
- Providing an un-administered test or any information about the test to another person.
- Entering a building or office for the purpose of changing a grade in a grade book, on a test, or on other work for which a grade is given.
- Changing, altering, or being an accessory to the changing and/or altering of a grade in a grade book, on a test, a "change of grade" form, or other official academic records of TRU which relate to grades.
- Entering a building or office for the purpose of obtaining or examining a potential test document or assignment that has not been made public.
- Impersonating another student, or permitting someone to impersonate you, in any assessment.

Fabrication is the intentional use of invented information or the falsification of research or other findings.

Examples could include:

- Listing sources in a bibliography not used in the academic exercise.
- Inventing data or source of information for research or other academic exercise.
- Submitting as one's own, any academic exercise (e.g., written work, printing, sculpture, etc.) prepared totally or in part by another.
- Citing information not taken from the source indicated.

Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's words, ideas, images, or data as one's own work. When a student submits work for credit that includes the words, ideas, images or data of others, the source of that information must be acknowledged through complete, accurate, and specific citations, and, if verbatim statements are included, through quotation marks or block format. By placing his/her name on work submitted for credit, the student certifies the originality of all work not otherwise identified by appropriate acknowledgements.

Self-plagiarism, which involves handing in all or part of an essay or assignment completed for another course without the consent of the instructor of the second course, is also a form of plagiarism, and an infraction of this Academic Integrity Policy.

A student will avoid plagiarism by referencing properly:

- Whenever the student quotes another person's actual words.
- Whenever the student uses another person's idea, opinion or theory, even if it is completely paraphrased in the student's own words.
- Whenever the student cites facts, statistics, or other illustrative materials from a published source or a lecture when that material is not considered common knowledge.
- Whenever the student uses images produced by another person.
- Citing facts or statistics or using illustrative materials considered to be common knowledge is not considered plagiarism.

It is together that the TRU community will create a culture that supports students and TRU Faculty and Staff in avoiding violations of academic integrity and upholding the values of honesty and integrity.

References & Resources

International Center for Academic Integrity. (2014). *Fundamental values*. Clemson: Clemson University. <https://www.academicintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Fundamental-Values-2014.pdf>.

Newton, P. & Lang, C. (2016). Custom essay writers, freelancers and other paid third parties. In T. Bretag (Ed) *Handbook of Academic Integrity* (pp 249-271). Singapore: Springer.

Thompson Rivers University (TRU). Student Academic Integrity. Policy ED 5-0. https://www.tru.ca/shared/assets/ED_05-0_Student_Academic_Integrity36334.pdf.