

If you are Chris, you should not accept or ask for the test papers without first obtaining permission from your professor. You should discuss with your professor to see if he/she would consider borrowing test papers from a previous class as an act of academic dishonesty. Regardless of the professor's decision, you should follow his/her advice accordingly. You can always get advice from your professor to be better prepared for tests and exams even if you are not allowed to borrow test papers from a previous class.

If you are Sam, you should not offer the test questions and/or answers to others if you are not sure about the permissibility of the act. Ask the professor of that particular class if you are in doubt.

In conclusion, if you find yourself in a similar scenario, ask your professor for clarification in advance! Faculty are more than happy to help you!

International Student Perspective

Academic Integrity

Written by Mohammad Irfan from Bangladesh

Integrity is valued in every culture among every community, much so in the academic circle. On the other hand, there are cheaters in every society. If we had a world free of cheating we would not have needed rules against it. However, the proportion of cheaters in a society is roughly proportional to the rewards and risks of cheating in that society. The United States, being a rule based society with opportunities for anyone working hard, is not always a nice place for cheaters.

International students go through a tough screening process before arriving to the US. It is really difficult for a test cheater, for instance, to sail through a very closely monitored proficiency and aptitude exam. Thus, I believe, most cases of plagiarism related to foreign students are primarily due to some form of misunderstanding about the rules and procedures. I would like to share my understanding of this issue.

The US is a trust based society with very strong consequences for the trust busters. Like other universities, the University of Denver has its own Honor Code. But that doesn't mean professors or proctors will be polic-

ing students all the time. It is the responsibility of the students, primarily, to live up to the honor code of their university. This might give rise to a what-the-heck attitude, especially among those coming from societies where monitoring is a part of everyday life.

International students should keep two things in mind when considering violating the DU Honor Code. Firstly, when he or she is ultimately caught cheating, the action will be tough. Also, these actions may very well come back to haunt, even long after his or her student life. Secondly, if the students are cheating instead of working hard, they are missing their opportunity to get the best education, not merely the best credential.

International students face special circumstances. For example, panicked by a looming deadline for a writing assignment at the end of the very first quarter, a student might think, 'This one time and never again.' The desperation might be exacerbated by the thought that he has to leave the U.S. anyway if he fails. Though there are ways to postpone a paper deadline for a valid cause, the student might have failed to keep his jet-lagged eyes open when that critical information was being delivered during first quarter orientation. Or the scary messages on integrity and immigration might have given him enough nightmares in the following weeks to cause him to forget the way out of those problems. To fellow new international students, I would suggest taking the following steps to avoid any possibility of academic violations.

Be aware of and responsible for the DU Honor Code. Secondly, ask questions of your professors and academic advisor when in doubt about whether a particular action might be considered cheating or plagiarism. Ask questions about the Honor Code, the class syllabus, collaboration with classmates on homework assignments and group projects, and citation of sources. If you do not understand the first time, ask the same question once again with an apologizing smile. Lastly, take advantage of the many resources, both on and off campus, addressing different issues of academic integrity. Among other things, refer to samples of correct and incorrect ways of citing sources and what is considered "common knowledge" in the U.S.

Wishing you all the best as you begin your academic program at the University of Denver. I hope you work hard to keep up with the challenges here around academic and integrity issues.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER



An Informational Brochure for International Students On Academic Integrity And Excellence

-Including-

- Important Honor Code Definitions and Examples
 - Academic and Disciplinary Sanctions
 - Academic Integrity Scenarios
- Presented by International Students**
- An International Student Perspective

Prepared by
International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS)
At the University of Denver
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Introduction

In your home country high school or university, you learned a particular code of academic integrity and conduct. All or some of that code may not be transferable to the University of Denver, which makes learning and applying our University Code of Conduct and Honor Code an extremely important endeavor.

University academic programs by design are rigorous and demanding. Throughout your student career at the University of Denver, you will periodically experience different stresses of academic life. You may be anxious for example about academic progress requirements of a scholarship or family expectations to do well in your studies. Pressures such as these may lead you to consider competing unfairly, and thereby cheating yourself and other students out of the full benefit of a University of Denver education.

While academic misconduct can be intentional, there is of course the possibility that a student may commit an Honor Code violation unintentionally, because of a misunderstanding of the Honor Code for instance. However, the University of Denver does not distinguish between intentional and unintentional Code violations with regard to sanctions, so, as an educative measure, please read and understand the University Code of Conduct and Honor Code .

THE DU HONOR CODE

Definitions and Examples

The University of Denver Honor Code contains some important definitions of academic misconduct categories and outlines the range of penalties which may be imposed through the University disciplinary process.

● **PLAGIARISM:** representation of another's work or ideas as one's own in academic submissions. Examples: Copying another person's paper, assignment or other work and submitting it for an assignment, or except for common knowledge, paraphrasing ideas, conclusions or research without proper citation of the source.

● **FABRICATION:** falsification or creation of data, research or resources to support academic submissions. Examples: Making up data for an experiment or citing non-existent articles.

● **CHEATING:** actual or attempted use of resources not authorized by the instructor(s) for academic submissions. Examples: using a cheat sheet or conferring with a classmate during an exam, or altering a graded exam and resubmitting it for an improved grade.

Disposition of Violations Against the Honor Code

Academic Sanctions are those assessed by an individual faculty member and/or an academic unit and which relate to the student's standing within the course and/or unit. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Failure of an assignment
- Failure of a course
- Termination from a graduate program

Disciplinary Sanctions are those assessed by the Conduct Review Board (CRB) and which relate to the student's standing within the University as a whole. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Disciplinary probation
- Suspension from the University
- Expulsion from the University

Source: Citizenship and Community Standards
Visit <http://www.du.edu/ccs/> for complete text

Academic Integrity Sample Scenarios Presented by International Students

Student Collaboration

Written by Andine Hennig from Germany

Terry and Joe have signed up for a class in art history. Part of the class requirements is to conduct a few research projects. For one of these projects, the professor assigns the students to research one of the collections at the Denver Art Museum. The students are allowed to conduct the research in small groups but are instructed to write up their own, individual research papers. Terry and Joe, who are good friends, decide to collaborate. The teaching assistants who grade the papers discover that Terry's and Joe's work look very similar in writing style and line of argument. They both are accused of plagiarism. How could Terry and Joe have avoided this incident? Because the papers looked so similar, it appears that Terry and Joe had copied each others notes

and writing. According to the University of Denver Honor Code, this practice is prohibited and considered to be plagiarism. Terry and Joe should have made sure that each used their own notes and observations, and wrote the paper in their own words. If they wanted to utilize each others findings, they should have mentioned something like, "...I agree with my research partner Terry who states that...". If Terry and Joe didn't understand the precise instructions for the research and the writing of the paper, they could have consulted in advance with either the professor or one of the teaching assistants for an explanation of the instructions again.

For international students like myself, it can sometimes be difficult to understand the rules and regulations pertaining to academic integrity in a country different from one's home country. I advise students to ensure they understand academic integrity related materials provided by the University, to seek guidance from their professors about how to approach a collaborative project, and to ask professors and academic advisors how to use data and reference materials in a written paper.

Cheating and Academic Dishonesty

Written by Idie Si from Hong Kong

Chris and Sam took a world politics class taught in consecutive quarters by the same professor. Hoping to excel in the class, Chris borrowed the tests and answers from Sam who took the same test the previous quarter. Chris then used Sam's material to prepare for the test. When he found out that the test questions were very similar to the ones took by Sam, Chris used the answers provided by Sam on the test. As a result, Chris was accused by the professor of cheating and Sam was considered by the professor as facilitating academic dishonesty.

Chris and Sam could have avoided this situation by first consulting with their professor. When faced with a situation similar to this, you should not make any assumptions in relation to cheating and/or plagiarism, whether you are Chris or Sam. Prior to borrowing tests and papers used in other classes, you should follow the steps below to ensure you do not violate the University Honor Code.