

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS
BOARD POLICY

Policy Number: 709

Subject: Academic Integrity

Date Adopted: 02/10 Revised: 02/13, 05/14, 12/20

A. Academic Integrity

The mission of the University of Central Arkansas commits all members of the university community to acquiring, sharing, evaluating, and communicating knowledge. Such a commitment includes an expectation of academic integrity, an organizational and individual commitment to honesty and responsibility in teaching and learning. By their affiliation with the University of Central Arkansas, all members of the university community are committed to shared responsibility for maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity. Although this policy focuses on academic integrity in course-related work, its basis and context is the commitment made by the entire university community.

B. Academic Misconduct

Violation of the expectation of academic integrity is academic misconduct. Examples of misconduct commonly identified by universities include but are not limited to those listed here (definitions are quoted from the *Random House Webster's Unabridged Dictionary*, 1999 ed.):

- *Cheating*: to cheat is, in an academic context, “to take an examination or test in a dishonest way, as by improper access to answers.” Cheating may also occur in the context of other academic assignments.
- *Plagiarism*: “the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work.” This concept may apply to any kind of intellectual property.
- *Fabrication*: to fabricate is, in this context, “to fake; forge (a document, signature, etc.).” Fabrication is commonly associated with the falsified research findings.

Other forms of academic misconduct may include unauthorized collaboration or submitting the same paper or portions of the same paper to two different courses without the consent of both instructors. The university will provide extensive publicly accessible examples of and information about forms of academic misconduct (see section C, below).

The university's academic integrity policy applies to all students enrolled in courses at the University of Central Arkansas. All forms of academic misconduct at the University of Central Arkansas will be regarded as serious.

C. Requirement to Inform Students

UCA will discuss the academic integrity policy during new student orientation for freshmen, transfer, and graduate students each fall semester. Beginning in fall 2010, first-year freshman students will be required to participate in an official orientation program.

The Divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Services will collaborate in publishing information about academic integrity and misconduct, with explanations and examples intended to help students make informed decisions about how they conduct themselves in their academic work, including the use and presentation of information.

Beginning in the fall semester 2010, every course syllabus, including those for courses offered by distance education, must include the following language: "The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the University's Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the *Student Handbook*. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy." An instructor may include in the course syllabus additional information about academic integrity if he/she wishes to do so.

D.D.

The instructor will submit the signed Academic Integrity Violation form to the department chair as notification of the allegation and penalty/penalties. The chair confirms the allegation by signing the form and submitting it to the university registrar for recording (the “official allegation”).

2. Using the student’s preferred email address listed in Banner, the department chair will inform the student of his/her right to appeal. Within 10 working days of the department chair’s notification, the student has a right to appeal the decision through the procedures set forth below.

Institutional Penalties

Institutional responses to allegations of misconduct fall into two categories: (1) automatic penalties based on an official allegation and (2) additional penalties that will result if the student is not exonerated. The institutio

◀ Subsequent infractions

1. Appeals at the Department/College Level

- a. The instructor will advise the student of an accusation of academic misconduct and the penalties to be applied. Within 10 working days of receiving this information and the chair's notification of his/her right to appeal (see E.2), a student may meet informally with the instructor to attempt to resolve the matter.
- b. If the student is not satisfied with the action of the instructor, then within 10 working days of the meeting with the instructor, the student may submit a formal written appeal to the department chair. Within 10 working days of receipt of the written appeal, the chair will meet with the student to attempt to resolve the matter.
- c. If the student is not satisfied with the action of the department chair, then within 10 working days of the meeting with the department chair, the student may submit a formal written appeal to the dean of the appropriate college, with copies to the instructor and the department chair.
- d. Within 10 working days of receipt of the written appeal, the instructor and department chair must submit the following materials to the dean of the college: a description of the academic misconduct and any penalties assigned, and all pertinent documentation concerning the academic misconduct. The dean of the college may ask for additional documentation from the student's academic misconduct file if such documentation exists.
- e. Within 10 working days of receipt of the appeal, the dean of the college will submit a written decision to the student with copies to the instructor and to the department chair. The dean of the college will forward the written decision and documentation to the university registrar for the permanent electronic record and retain all pertinent documentation regarding the academic misconduct in the student's academic misconduct file.

2. Appeals at the University Level

- a. If not satisfied with the action of the dean of the college, the student may submit, within 10 working days after receiving notice of the decision, a written appeal to the dean of students for referral to the Academic Integrity and Discipline Committee. Any appeal of course grade as a result of sanctions will follow the procedures outlined in this policy rather than the grade appeal process.
- b. Within 10 working days of receipt of the student's appeal, the dean of students will refer the appeal to the Academic Integrity and Discipline Committee for a hearing and inform the instructor, department chair, college dean, dean of students, and, as appropriate, the graduate dean. The composition of the committee and the procedures to be followed are set forth in Section H below.

c. The committee will submit the report of the hearing and the recommendations of the committee to the provost and vice president for student services. The p

