

*Replaces all previously issued policies and procedures, effective: **October 1, 2023***

Expectation

Students at the University of Washington (UW) are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct, professional honesty, and personal integrity.

Academic misconduct harms the University and the broader academic community in many ways. Honest students are frustrated by the unfairness of cheating that goes undetected and unreported. Students who cheat may skew the grading curve in a class, resulting in lower grades for students who work hard and do their own work. A tolerance for academic misconduct is shown to be related to a long-term acceptance of unethical behavior in the workplace¹.

Most professions have codes of ethics, standards to which you will be expected to adhere when you are working, and public health is no different with [Principles of Ethical Practice of Public Health](#) being articulated by the American Public Health Association (APHA). At the UW's School of Public Health, we expect you to practice the integrity you must demonstrate in your career. For all of these reasons, academic misconduct is considered a serious offense at the UW.

If you suspect someone of engaging in academic misconduct, please report it to your instructor.

Policy

The UW School of Public Health (SPH) is committed to upholding standards of academic integrity consistent with the academic and professional communities of which it is a part. Plagiarism, cheating, unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools, and other misconduct are serious violations of the University of Washington [Student Conduct Code \(WAC 478-121\)](#). We expect you to know and follow the university's policies on cheating and plagiarism. Any suspected cases of academic misconduct will be handled according to University of Washington regulations. For more information, see the University of Washington [Community Standards and Student Conduct website](#).

Suspected cases of misconduct will be handled by the SPH Dean's Representatives for Academic Conduct: The Assistant Dean for Students. **To refer a case of suspected academic misconduct** to the Dean's Office, contact:

1. submit a report and upload supporting documentation:
<https://www.washington.edu/cssc/facultystaff/report-academic-misconduct/>

¹ Brodowsky, G. H., Tarr, E., Ho, F. N., & Sciglimpaglia, D. (2020). Tolerance for Cheating From the Classroom to the Boardroom: A Study of Underlying Personal and Cultural Drivers. *Journal of Marketing Education*, 42(1), 23-36.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0273475319878810>

2. consult about a suspected case of misconduct: Juanita Ricks, Assistant Dean for Students, jmricks@uw.edu

SPH Academic Integrity Policy and Misconduct Procedures

A student falls within the jurisdiction of the SPH policy if the student is:

1. enrolled in a major within the school, or
2. enrolled in a graduate program offered by the school.

If the student is a major or pre-major in any other college, the SPH will refer the case and supporting documentation to the college or school in which the student is enrolled.

What is Academic Misconduct?

Academic misconduct occurs when a student does not meet the standards of academic and professional honesty and integrity (see [Prohibited Conduct](#)). Academic misconduct includes, *but is not limited to*:

- **Cheating:** copying from someone else's paper, using notes or materials not allowed by the instructor, getting an advance copy of the examination, or arranging for a surrogate test-taker.
- **Plagiarism:** using another's ideas, images, or words or ideas without proper citation.
- **Unauthorized collaboration:** This practice applies most commonly for specific assignments or exams. In particular, if an instructor specifically disallows a practice (such as discussing an exam question with other students, or working with your peers) that is typically allowed or encouraged, you should not engage in that practice.
- **Prohibited behavior:** disregarding expectations that are communicated by the instructor of a course or explicitly detailed in the syllabus.
- **Unauthorized use of assistance or technology,** including generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, Bard, etc.), in completing assignments or exams is a subset of cheating.
- **Multiple submissions of a paper:** submitting all or substantial parts of a paper or assignment for more than one class without the express permission of your professor.
- **Falsification:** refers to the use or submission of materials that you are aware are fake.
- **Destroying or damaging another's work:** references deliberate efforts to gain advantage over another student by sabotage.
- **Recording and/or disseminating instructional content without permission:** exception is allowed for approved disability accommodation.

Academic integrity requires that the course work (drafts, reports, examinations, papers, etc.) you present to an instructor conveys your individual academic efforts honestly and accurately.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is when you use another's work without proper citation. The key to avoiding plagiarism is to show clearly where your own thinking begins and someone else's ends. This thinking might be as limited in scope as a picture or photo, a few words, a theory, or an argument and might have been expressed in a speech, a presentation, a blog post, or an article as well as in a paper or report. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

- *Using another writer's words without proper citation.* This can include work done by friends or

classmates who are taking a class with you or have taken and submitted similar assignments previously. If you use another writer's words, you must place quotation marks around the quoted material and indicate the source of the quotation. The work from the original author may have been published or unpublished.

· ***Using another's ideas without proper citation.*** When you use another author's ideas, you must indicate the source of the information. Your instructors want to know which ideas and judgments are yours and which you arrived at by consulting other sources. Even if you arrived at the same judgment on your own, you need to acknowledge that the originator came up with the idea prior to your own conclusion.

· ***In computer programming classes, borrowing computer code from another student and presenting it as your own.*** When original computer code is a requirement for a class, it is a violation of the University's policy if students submit work they themselves did not create.

· ***Using online sources, obtaining information for assignments without proper citation.*** The guidelines that define plagiarism also apply to information secured on internet websites. Internet references must specify precisely where the information was obtained and where it can be found. Internet websites do not constitute common knowledge and therefore must be cited.

Multiple submissions

If you want to submit a single paper or completed assignment in more than one class, even though it's your original work, you must have the express permission of your professor(s) otherwise it may constitute academic misconduct.

Cheating

Copying from someone else's paper, using notes (unless expressly allowed by the instructor), altering an exam for re-grading, getting an advance copy of the examination, unauthorized use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) content generators, such as ChatGPT, in completing assignments or exams or hiring a surrogate test-taker are all forms of academic misconduct.

- ***The unauthorized use of technology, including generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, Bard), in completing assignments or exams.*** While some instructors may encourage you to utilize technology to enhance your learning experience, other instructors may prefer that you do your own work without seeking outside help. It is your responsibility to read the syllabus for each course you take so that you understand the particular expectations of each of your instructors. If you are unsure of expectations, you are encouraged to ask for clarification before you use specific resources in completing assignments. If you use AI tools in your coursework, you must follow your instructor's instructions to record and declare how AI contributed to your work.

Technology is an important resource available to students, but can also create additional barriers to learning if not used appropriately. If it is unclear how electronic devices and technology tools can or cannot be used, ask your instructor. While it is common to write your paper on a laptop or use a calculator to complete math homework, it is not acceptable to access answers to questions online during an exam, or to text a classmate the answers to a multiple-choice question during a quiz.

Inappropriate collaboration

Educators recognize the value of collaborative learning; students are often assigned group projects or encouraged to form study groups. Group study often results in accelerated learning, but only when each student takes responsibility for mastering all the material.

If you are permitted or required to work with other students to study or to complete research or projects that require you to submit an individual work product that assesses your learning, be sure you understand what collaboration is allowable and how it should be documented. If your work product is an individual assessment of your learning within a collaborative assignment, be mindful of reporting how much collaboration goes into writing the outline, finding sources, *etc.*, so that the instructor may assess your individual effort in the project.

False representation of data or experiences

The fabrication of data or experiences constitutes a serious violation of academic conduct. When you are writing about personal experience, service, or research, the materials presented must accurately reflect your experience, outcome and findings.

RESOURCES

Detecting academic misconduct can be challenging. One way in which the UW is working to support instructors and students in monitoring written work for possible lapses in proper citation is through access to [SimCheck by Turnitin](#), a web-based system linked to Canvas that can be put in place to scan students' work and look for similarities with material written by other authors. When run through this system, each paper gets a similarity score. Instructors and students can click on the paper to determine what components of each paper are similar to components in other works.

Students who are uncertain about which citation model should be used and what constitutes appropriate citation should talk with their instructors or contact the [Odegaard Writing Center](#).

PROCESS FOR INVESTIGATING AND ADDRESSING ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

For instructors

1. Contact the student to explain the allegation.

- A typical first step is to communicate with the student by email or in person to explain why you suspect that the student may have engaged in academic misconduct.
- You may refer the case directly to the School of Public Health's Dean's Office before contacting the student or to seek advice before contacting the student. If in doubt of next steps, start by contacting the Dean's Office.
- If you communicate with the student via email, save all of the email communications to include as documentation if you decide to refer the case to the Dean's Office for an Academic Conduct Review.

2. Refer the case to the Dean's Office.

- Explain to the student that you are referring the case to the Dean's Office for possible disciplinary action, and submit a [Report of Academic Misconduct](#) to the Assistant Dean for Students using the Report It link on the Community Standards and Student Conduct page.
- Do not assign a grade for the assignment or the course if near completion (assign an "X" grade) until after you have been notified by the Dean's Office that the conduct process is complete and that you may assign a grade.
- If the student is found responsible for academic misconduct, you will then calculate and submit the final grade according to the expectations and grading method stated in the course syllabus. In all cases, if the Dean's Office exonerates the student, the course instructor will grade the work accordingly.

For students

- If you are accused of academic misconduct, you may be contacted by your instructor, TA, and/or a Dean's Office representative to discuss the allegation. If you would prefer not to discuss the allegation with your instructor, you may request to proceed directly to an [Investigative Interview](#), with a small group of Dean's Office representatives. Similarly, your instructor may choose to immediately refer the matter to the Dean's Office rather than meeting with you first.

- If your instructor refers the matter to the Dean’s Office, you will be contacted to schedule an [Investigative Interview](#), at which time you will be asked to share your view of what happened. · You will have the right to appeal any sanctions imposed.
- You will not receive a grade on the assignment in question or for the course until the conduct hearing process is complete. If you are found responsible for academic misconduct, the grading of the assignment involving academic misconduct will be determined by the course instructor and may include a zero on the assignment, which may result in a failing final course grade.
- If you are exonerated, you will receive the grade you would have received had the misconduct charge not been reported.

If a student is found responsible for academic misconduct

Consequences for academic misconduct follow two main paths: **Disciplinary Sanctions:** After a student has had access to due process via Informal Hearings, if found responsible for academic misconduct, disciplinary sanctions are imposed. Possible disciplinary sanctions are specified in the [Student Conduct Code](#), including a **warning, disciplinary probation, or a recommendation for suspension** or dismissal from the University.

·**Grading:** If the student is found responsible for academic misconduct, the instructor will then calculate the grade for any assignments involving academic misconduct. Instructors typically assign a zero/no credit for assignments involving academic misconduct, which may result in a failing final course grade for the students.

Investigative Interview Process

1. The Dean’s Office notifies the student of the Investigative Interview.

After reviewing the Report of Academic Misconduct from the instructor, the Dean’s Office will email the accused student to schedule and then confirm an appointment for an Investigative Interview. Included in the email will be information about the Student Conduct Code. If a student fails to respond to a scheduled Investigative Interview or fails to attend a scheduled hearing, the hearing will proceed in his or her absence and a hold may be placed on the student’s record.

2. The Dean’s Office consults with the UW Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct. The Dean’s Office will contact the UW Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct to determine if the student has previously been found responsible for misconduct. If the student has a misconduct record, this will be taken into account when reviewing the case.

3. The Dean’s Office holds the Investigative Interview with the student.

At the Investigative Interview, the student will meet with the Assistant Dean for Students. The Investigative Interview allows the Dean’s Office to share with the student information received regarding the alleged academic misconduct and provides an opportunity for the student to share her/his perspective on and information regarding the allegation. During the Investigative Interview, the student is provided with the following information:

- The alleged misconduct and the reasons for the university’s belief that the student engaged in the misconduct;
- the specific section(s) of the [Student Conduct Code](#) allegedly violated; and
- the possible sanctions that may be imposed.

4. The Dean’s Office makes a recommendation– Informal Hearing outcomes.

Based on the Investigative Interview and within 10 days of its conclusion, the Assistant Dean for Students will issue the student a letter and take one of these actions:

Exonerate or dismiss the action if no alleged misconduct is determined to have taken place. Impose a disciplinary sanction. Possible disciplinary sanctions are specified in the [Student Conduct Code](#), including a warning, disciplinary probation or a recommendation for suspension or dismissal from the University.

In either case, the Dean’s Office will communicate the conclusions and relevant recommendations to the instructor.

5. The Dean’s Office records the incident or expunges the files.

If the student is exonerated, all materials related to the investigation are expunged. A record that an unfounded misconduct allegation was made will reflect the quarter and year when the action happened.

If the student is found responsible, the Student and Academic Services office will maintain files on all materials submitted, including any interview summary/ies, the Report of Academic Misconduct, all associated materials, and all correspondence with the student about the case. These records will be kept for the period required by UW Records Retention policy, currently six years. A copy of the file will be kept by the UW Community Standards and Student Conduct office.

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Supporting documents

[Student Code of Conduct](#) for the University of Washington

Key Contacts

Subject	Contact	Email	Phone
Policy Questions	Juanita Ricks	jmricks@uw.edu	206.616.3198

Revision History and Review Schedule

Amendment No.	Date Amended	Purpose	Who and Title
	April, 2016	Revised WAC	Annette Fitzgerald
	July, 2018	Revised contacts	Juanita Ricks
	October, 2023	Generative AI, Revised plagiarism detection	Jennifer Slyker
	October, 2023	Update reporting mechanism	Juanita Ricks