ACADEMIC HONESTY

Faculty of Health, York University

Do you realize you may be risking your career?

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Approved by the Faculty of Health, CEAS Committee
CASE

• A student missed an assignment that was worth 5% of course assessment. The student provided a physician’s note to the professor in order explain her absence. The professor called the physician’s office to verify its legitimacy and discovered that the note was falsified.

What do you think happened in this case?
PENALTY

• The student was charged with *fabrication* and received a *failure* in the course, permanent grade of record and transcript notation.

Did you know that you may be criminally charged for falsifying a physician’s note?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breaching Academic Honesty</th>
<th>Examples¹</th>
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</table>
| Cheating                  | • Copying other students’ exam answers  
• Getting the exam questions before it is held  
• Changing a mark on the exam  
• Using electronic devices or aids that are not approved  
• Submitting another student’s work as your own  
• Submitting same (entire or portion) paper for two different classes without consulting with the professor  
• Selling or purchasing papers |
| Plagiarism                | Presenting someone else’s work, including their intellectual property and writing as your own without proper citation |
| Impersonation             | Using another individual for impersonation in tests, exams and class |
| Fabrication & Falsification | Modification of grades, transcript, physician’s notes and other academic documents |
CASE

• A student in their 4\textsuperscript{th} year submitted a paper, portions were discovered to be from a paper that he submitted in a prior course. The student claimed that he was unaware that students cannot reuse their own paper or portions of their own paper.

What do you think happened in this case?
PENALTY

• This particular student received **failure** in the course and permanent grade of record.
# TYPES OF PENALTIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Penalty Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lower grade in the course</td>
<td>Depending on the severity of the offence, a student may get lower grade on the course. For instance, you may get a D, rather than a F.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Failure in the course</td>
<td>Your transcript will always have a failed course mark (F).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanent grade of record</td>
<td>If you get a penalty of failure in the course, then automatically, you are assigned that grade as a permanent grade of record. The assigned mark is always calculated into your GPA even if the course is repeated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notation on transcript</td>
<td>In cases where the offence is severe and/or a second offence, the committee may add notation on the transcript for up to 5 years. This makes it clear for the graduate and professional schools as well as employers that a student has violated academic honesty!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspension</td>
<td>In serious offences, a student is suspended for up to 5 years with transcript notation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expulsion</td>
<td>For extreme or multiple cases, a student can be removed from the university on a permanent basis.</td>
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</table>
What do these penalties mean to you?

• **Permanent failure mark influences your GPA. This means it…**
  • can delay your graduation
  • can lower chances of getting into grad or professional schools
  • can limited employment opportunities

Earning a degree with integrity vs. earning it with dishonesty…what is more satisfying?
What if you observe a fellow student breaching academic honesty?

• **Report it to your professor!**
  • If you let someone get away with plagiarizing or cheating to attain a better grade, then one day that student could get into medical school, graduate school, and/or get a job because they falsely obtained higher grades. As a result, they might prevent a valid deserving applicant from gaining access to one of these opportunities.
  • Could you trust the treatment a person like this would provide?
  • Would you want to work with or employ that person if they obtained their degree through such means?
LIFE LONG INTEGRITY?

• CBC reported in 2011 that a Dean of Medicine in a Canadian university plagiarized a part of his convocation speech\(^2\) – should he be fired?

• Business week described in 2013 that many applicants have been discovered to be plagiarizing portions of their letter of intent to business programs. \(^3\) Should they be denied entrance to the program?


LIFE LONG INTEGRITY?

• In January 2013, the Globe and Mail reported on the outcome of different incidences of plagiarism
  • It was found that the Director of the Toronto District School Board had plagiarised parts of his published work including his PhD dissertation. 4
  • In the hope of gaining a promotion, many federal bureaucrats copied components of their application from the Internet. 5

• Results? Resignation, embarrassment, rebuke, labelling such as “fraud”, and loss of employment opportunities!


Are you willing to gamble your graduation, career and reputation over short term success?
Your Integrity Counts!
Is it worth something to you?

• Do not let a weak moment, lack of time management, or ignorance make you regret an action for the rest of your life!
  • There are many consequences for dishonesty, not just at university but in the outside world (including employment) as well.
  • Taking a short cut will not lead you far in life. Success is only acquired through hard work and determination!
# RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perplexed about the academic honesty policy? <strong>Having a difficult time that is influencing your academic performance?</strong></td>
<td>Before you take the wrong path, speak with your professor and/or TA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experiencing a difficult circumstance? Need counselling? Need to learn more about learning skills, such as time management?</td>
<td>Visit Counselling and Disability services <a href="http://www.yorku.ca/cds/">http://www.yorku.ca/cds/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need to know how to manage stress effectively?</td>
<td>Visit Health Education &amp; Promotion <a href="http://www.yorku.ca/scld/healthed/">http://www.yorku.ca/scld/healthed/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need academic advising?</td>
<td>Make an appointment with advisors in the Office of Student and Academic Services <a href="http://health.info.yorku.ca/current-student-information/">http://health.info.yorku.ca/current-student-information/</a> Make an appointment to speak with your undergraduate program director</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
RESOURCES CONTINUED…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need help with how to conduct research?</th>
<th>Attend workshops, make an appointment, and even chat with a librarian online: <a href="http://www-dev.library.yorku.ca/cms/learning-commons/research-instruction/#appointment">http://www-dev.library.yorku.ca/cms/learning-commons/research-instruction/#appointment</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have a question about, academic integrity or learning skills?</td>
<td>Visit the Learning Commons at Scott Library <a href="http://www.library.yorku.ca/cms/learning-commons/">http://www.library.yorku.ca/cms/learning-commons/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Need help with writing? | - Visit the Writing Centre: [http://www.yorku.ca/laps/writ/centre/](http://www.yorku.ca/laps/writ/centre/)  
- Attend writing skills workshops offered by your College, e.g., [http://stong.yorku.ca/write-to-succeed-63/](http://stong.yorku.ca/write-to-succeed-63/)  
[http://calumet.yorku.ca/academic-services/](http://calumet.yorku.ca/academic-services/)  
- seek out workshops at the Scott Library, e.g., [http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/awg](http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/awg) |
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Take the Academic Integrity Tutorial at: http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/

• Inform yourself about the policies, procedures, and regulations around academic honesty! See: http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69#2.2%20%20%20%20%20%20Summary_of_Penalties_for_Academic_Misconduct
FINAL WORDS

• Ignorance is not an excuse
• Use the resources available to you and that you paid for
• Think about your career and reputation before you violate academic integrity
“It takes less time to do a right thing, than it does to explain why you did it wrong”

-- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“Lose your wealth and you've lost nothing. Lose your health and you've lost something. Lose your character and you've lost everything.”

-- Ben Lapadula
REFERENCES

Slide 4:

1 Note: Not all breaches of Academic Honesty are included here. Visit the Senate policy website (http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69) for additional details.

Slide 10:


3 http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-02-07/dozens-of-mba-applicants-tossed-over-plagiarism

Slide 11:
