

Chapter 4 – Academic Affairs

AP 4290 Student Academic Honesty

References:

Title 5 Section Title 5, Section 55002(a)(2)(A)., Mt. SAC BP 4290 and BP 5500;
Chancellor's Office Legal Opinions 07-12 and 95-31

All members of the academic community have a responsibility to ensure that scholastic honesty is maintained. Faculty have the responsibility of planning and supervising all academic work in order to encourage honest and individual effort and of taking appropriate action if instances of academic dishonesty are discovered.

Honesty is primarily the responsibility of each student. The College considers cheating to be a voluntary act for which there may be reason, but for which there is no acceptable excuse.

The term "Cheating" includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism;
2. Receiving or knowingly supplying unauthorized information;
3. Using unauthorized material or sources;
4. Changing an answer after work has been graded and presenting it as improperly graded;
5. Illegally accessing confidential information through a computer;
6. Taking an examination for another student or having another person take an examination for you;
7. Presenting another person's work as your own;
8. Forging or altering registration or grade documents; and/or
9. Submitting collectively developed work as your own, unless specifically allowed by the professor.

A professor who determines that a student has cheated may give the student a failing grade for the assignment. The professor should also recommend that appropriate action be taken under the provisions of AP 5520 - Student Discipline Procedures.

Grade Based on Demonstrated Proficiency:

Since grading policies must reflect the measurement of student performance in terms of the stated course objectives, professors may not fail a student for a single act of cheating or plagiarism if the student can meet, or has already met, the preponderant balance of course objectives as specified in the course outline of record. In addition, students are entitled to a

formal, administrative process of review and appeal since allegations of dishonesty are serious and can lead to disciplinary sanctions including suspension and expulsion.

The overall grade for a course should indicate the student's demonstrated proficiency in the subject matter. Students can be given a failing grade on a particular assignment or exam in which dishonesty occurred, and the failing grade for dishonesty would then be reflected in the student's overall grade for the course.

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