

POLICY STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Middle Tennessee State University takes a strong stance against academic misconduct.

Academic Misconduct includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and facilitation.

Academic Misconduct: Plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, or facilitating any such act. For purposes of this course, the following definitions apply:

(1) **Plagiarism:** The adoption or reproduction of ideas, words, statements, images, or works of another person as one's own without proper attribution. This includes self-plagiarism, which occurs when an author submits material or research from a previous academic exercise to satisfy the requirements of another exercise and uses it without proper citation of its reuse.

SPECIFIC EXAMPLES FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

- Copying your classmate's, roommate's, friend's, or any other individual's current or previous work or reports is plagiarism.
- Copying the work of others and changing some of the words or phrasing to make it sound like your own.
- Submitting your own projects, presentations, or reports from a previous semester is plagiarism.
- Working closely with another individual to heavily edit your work, resulting in a document that should be considered a co-authored document, is plagiarism.

Please note that the above list is not a comprehensive list of all activities that constitute plagiarism. It is your responsibility as a student to clarify the scope of what constitutes plagiarism in this course. Ignorance will not be a plausible defense in the event that you are accused of plagiarism.

(2) **Cheating:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. This includes unapproved collaboration, which occurs when a student works with others on an academic exercise without the express permission of the professor. The term academic exercise includes all forms of work submitted for credit or hours.

SPECIFIC EXAMPLES FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

- Copying answers either partially or completely from another student's paper is cheating.

- Using notes or 'cheat sheets' not explicitly allowed by the instructor is cheating.
- Using an electronic device not explicitly allowed by the instructor is cheating. This may include the use of smartphones as calculators.
- Photographing or otherwise copying an exam or quiz and distributing to others is cheating.

Please note that the above list is not a comprehensive list of all activities that constitute cheating.

(3) **Fabrication:** Unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

To be clear: going online and taking information without proper citations, copying parts of other student's work, creating information for the purposes of making your paper seem more official, or anything involving taking someone else's thoughts or ideas without proper attribution is academic misconduct. Facilitating plagiarism or cheating by serving as a source for documents, answers, or other written, spoken, or digital resources is also academic misconduct and will be penalized to the same degree as are the other forms. If you work together on an assignment when it is not allowed, it is academic misconduct. If you have a question about an assignment, see your instructor to clarify. Any cases of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Affairs for violating the academic honesty requirements in the student handbook. **Remember – ignorance is NOT a defense.**

Consequences of Academic Misconduct

If you are suspected of committing academic misconduct in a lab course, the Lab Coordinator has the authority to pursue a referral through the Office of Academic Misconduct. If you are suspected of committing academic misconduct in a lecture course, the Lecture Instructor has the authority to pursue a referral through the Office of Academic Misconduct. In either case, the following process will apply:

1. If your Lab Coordinator or Lecture Instructor determines that you have committed Academic Misconduct, your name and supporting paperwork will be submitted as a referral to the Office of Academic Misconduct.
2. The Coordinator of the Office of Academic Misconduct will then contact you directly to determine the next course of action.
3. In the event that the Director determines that you have in fact committed Academic Misconduct, you will receive an F as the final grade in your course. If the offense occurred in a lab course that is a co-requisite to a lecture such that a single final grade is issued, you will receive an F as your final grade in the course.

4. Depending on the nature of the misconduct, you may also be subject to other or additional penalties, which include but are not limited to: a written or verbal reprimand, suspension, and expulsion.

NOTE: If your offense involves cheating with/from another student OR an assignment that matches that of another student, both you and the other student will be referred to the Coordinator for Academic Misconduct. Any student currently enrolled at MTSU can be referred through this process, regardless of when they took the course involved in the referral. It will be each student's responsibility to make his or her case to the Coordinator of Academic Misconduct.