

CSUB Graduate Academic Integrity Policy

Philosophy on Academic Integrity:

The California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB) [Guiding Principles](#) begin with a commitment to academic excellence and to the pursuit of integrity and truth. CSUB administrators, faculty, staff, and students are expected to honor and uphold these principles and in so doing protect the integrity of all academic work. A degree at CSUB is a product of our campus's commitment to ethical behavior, academic integrity, and academic excellence. When a violation of academic integrity occurs, it diminishes the value of that degree and impacts the reputation of our campus.

Policy:

Students at CSUB are expected to do all their academic work (coursework, assignments, exams, research, etc.) without getting or giving unauthorized assistance. Faculty have the responsibility of planning and supervising academic work so that honest effort is encouraged and positively reinforced. This policy is in addition to the Professional Standards of the student's graduate program.

Types of Academic Integrity Violations:

Academic integrity violations include, but are not limited to, plagiarizing, cheating, providing unauthorized assistance, collaborating with other students without the approval of the instructor, using technology improperly, and falsifying university documents for the purpose of gaining an unfair academic advantage, improving a grade, or obtaining course credit. Academic Integrity violations are listed in the [Student Conduct Code](#) and the [University Handbook](#), and all offenses listed below, but not limited to the following, are taken seriously.

Plagiarism is claiming the published or unpublished work of someone else as your own. This includes handing in someone else's work; turning in copied or purchased compositions; using paragraphs, sentences, phrases, words, or ideas, including paraphrasing, written by another writer; or using data and/or statistics compiled by someone else as your own without giving appropriate credit to the original writer. Plagiarism also includes using work submitted in another class without permission of the instructor.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, using "cheat (crib) sheets" or notes during an exam without the approval of the instructor, copying from someone else or looking at another student's answers during an exam, using books or outside sources without permission during an exam or assignment, receiving answers on an exam or assignment from someone else, or using an online source to obtain answers without approval.

Unauthorized Assistance is providing answers or information on an assignment or exam to a fellow student without approval of the instructor.

Unauthorized Collaboration is working with others on an assignment or exam without approval of the instructor and/or copying from someone else without their knowledge.

Both unauthorized assistance and collaboration interfere with the ability of the instructor to evaluate the individual student's performance in their course.

Improper use of technology includes using computers, computer programs, cell phones, calculators, or other software or electronic aids to gain an unfair academic advantage without permission of the instructor.

Falsification of University Documents includes, but is not limited to, falsifying signatures, such as another student's signature or a faculty/staff signature on a university form (for example, an add/drop form).

Using **Artificial Intelligence** to complete an assignment or exam developed to assess your knowledge of a particular subject matter, idea, or concept or using it without the explicit permission of the instructor for the purpose of gaining an unfair academic advantage would also be considered a violation.

Procedures for Reporting a Violation of the Graduate Academic Integrity Policy:

Any violation of Academic Integrity should be reported to the Dean of Students' Office.

When a faculty, staff, or administrator discovers a violation of the academic integrity policy, they shall discuss the violation, including the evidence, with the student(s) involved and allow the student(s) to respond. Any academic penalty, including the student's potential grade penalty for the offense, falls within the purview of the faculty member teaching the course. (See "Recommended Consequences for Academic Dishonesty.") For further guidance, consult with the appropriate Program Director, Department Chair, Academic Dean, or Dean of Students' Office.

After the violation has occurred and the penalty imposed, the incident, with all supporting evidence, shall be reported to the Dean of Students' Office through the [Academic Integrity Violation Reporting Form](#) to be considered in its totality in order to determine whether the reported incident is part of a larger pattern of misconduct. Disciplinary sanctions for academic dishonesty are processed through the procedures outlined in the [Student Conduct Process](#).

Recommended Consequences for Academic Integrity Violations:

Grade penalties are at the sole discretion of the faculty member. This policy assumes that every graduate student is familiar with the expectations of ethical writing and decision-making. Suggested guidelines for academic penalties within the course can range from failure of the assignment/exam/paper/project to failure of the course depending on the severity of the academic integrity violation. Any additional academic penalty, including whether the degree/program can continue, should also align with the professional standards of the specific graduate program.

Additional Potential Sanctions for a Violation of the Graduate Academic Integrity Policy:

In addition to the academic penalty assigned by the faculty member and/or program, disciplinary sanctions imposed by the University may include probation, suspension, permanent expulsion from the university and from the CSU system, or the withholding of a degree.

Disciplinary probation will be noted on the student's formal academic record only for the duration of the probationary period. Disciplinary suspension of more than an academic year and expulsion will be part of the student's permanent academic record. Once a disciplinary sanction is determined, the outcome will be provided to the instructor who reported the incident and remains in the student's electronic disciplinary file in accordance with the [CSU Records/Information Retention and Disposition Schedule](#).

Repeated Violations of the Graduate Academic Integrity Policy:

Any repeated violation of the academic integrity policy will result in more serious academic sanctions. Normally, this will include suspension or expulsion from the university with a note on the student's permanent record. Decisions regarding penalties for repeated violations shall be determined by the Student Conduct Officer after conferring with a committee composed primarily of one tenured faculty member per school with teaching responsibilities in at least one of their respective graduate programs.

Grievance Process:

A graduate or post-baccalaureate student who experiences difficulties arising from course evaluation, judgment of performance, graduate degree requirements, advancement to candidacy, general regulations, and/or other grievance situations should discuss the issues first with the appropriate graduate or credential program director. For additional details, refer to the section on Grievances and Appeals in Division of Graduate Studies section of the catalog and/or [Student Complaint and Grievance Procedures](#) as listed on the [Graduate Student Center Forms & Catalog](#) webpage.

Proposed Syllabus Language:

Academic Integrity: Certain forms of conduct violate the university's policy of academic integrity and the Student Conduct Code. Academic dishonesty (cheating) is a broad category of actions that use fraud and deception to improve a grade or obtain course credit. Academic dishonesty is not limited to exams alone but arises whenever students attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Plagiarism is claiming the published or unpublished work of someone else as your own. This includes handing in someone else's work; turning in copied or purchased compositions; using paragraphs, sentences, phrases, words, or ideas, including paraphrasing, written by another writer; or using data and/or statistics compiled by someone else as your own without giving appropriate credit to the original writer. Plagiarism also includes using your work submitted in another class without permission of your current instructor. Using Artificial Intelligence to complete an assignment or exam developed to assess your knowledge of a particular subject matter, idea, or concept or using it without the explicit permission of the instructor for the purpose of gaining an unfair academic advantage would also be considered a violation.

When a faculty member discovers a violation of the academic integrity policy, the faculty member will meet with the student(s) involved and is required to notify the Dean of Students' Office. The Dean of Students or designee will investigate; confer with the faculty member, student(s), and any witnesses identified; and review all evidence submitted by the faculty member and student(s) to impose an administrative sanction, beyond the academic penalty already placed by the faculty member. Students who perform dishonestly in this course may earn zero credit on the assignment/exam or a failing grade in the course. For details on the grievance process, refer to the section on Grievances and Appeals in Division of Graduate Studies section of the catalog.

Students are expected to uphold the standards of academic integrity, the CSUB Guiding Principles, the Student Conduct Code, and the Professional Standards of their graduate program.

Catalog Statement:

The principles of truth and integrity are recognized as fundamental to our campus community. CSUB administrators, faculty, staff, and students are expected to honor and uphold these principles and in so doing protect the integrity of all academic work. A degree at CSUB is a product of our campus's commitment to ethical behavior, academic integrity, and academic excellence. When a violation of academic integrity occurs, it diminishes the value of that degree.

Students at CSUB are expected to do all work assigned to them without getting or giving unauthorized assistance. Faculty have the responsibility of planning and supervising academic work so that honest effort is encouraged and positively reinforced.