UNIVERSITY SYSTEM of MARYLAND

III-1.00 - POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

(Approved by the Board of Regents, November 30, 1989; Technical amendments by the Board, December 12, 2014; Revised by the Board, December 16, 2022)

I.   PURPOSE

The University System of Maryland is an academic community whose fundamental purpose is the pursuit of knowledge. Essential to the success of this educational mission is a commitment to adhere to clearly established principles of academic integrity. This policy is the basis for practices designed to instill and to promote across the University System of Maryland a culture of teaching and learning with integrity and to hold ourselves to the highest standards of academic conduct. The University System of Maryland is committed to due process in circumstances where students are suspected of academic misconduct.

This policy applies to academic conduct of persons fulfilling requirements of courses or programs including in examinations, not misconduct in scholarly work covered in the USM Policy on Misconduct in Scholarly Work (III-1.10), which applies primarily to faculty, staff, and student research, scholarly writing, and the creation of works of art.

II.   POLICY

All members of our academic communities–students, faculty, staff, administrators, post-doctoral trainees, and other academic professionals–share responsibility to promote and maintain the highest level of integrity across the academic experience. Accordingly:

A.   Constituent institutions of the University System of Maryland shall take measures to foster a culture of teaching and learning integrity on campus.

B.   All members of the community shall make all reasonable efforts to promote academic integrity and, by their own example, refrain from acts of academic misconduct themselves.

C.   Each institution shall conduct periodic evaluations of procedures and practices that instill and promote academic integrity.

D.   Following the "Guidelines for Policies and Procedures Relating to the Promotion of Academic Integrity," each institution in the System shall prepare, implement, and publicize policies and procedures that define acts of academic misconduct, ensure due process for students accused of academic misconduct, and impose sanctions on students found to be responsible for acts of academic misconduct.

E.   All members of the community of each USM institution should report suspected academic misconduct, ensure student due process, and see that action is taken in accordance with institutional regulations.

F.   A student suspended under this policy shall not be admitted to any other institution in the System during the term of the suspension. A student expelled under this policy shall not be admitted to any other institution in the System for at least one year from the effective date of expulsion.

III. ACCOUNTABILITY

Each institution will be held accountable to their academic communities, the Chancellor, and the Board of Regents for the development, implementation, administration, and enforcement of policies, procedures, and practices aimed at fostering, sustaining, and upholding principles of academic integrity on their individual campuses. A template for collecting, evaluating, reporting, and sharing data on the institution's progress consistent with the purpose of this policy will be developed by administrators and shared governance bodies collaborating with the University System of Maryland Office.

GUIDELINES FOR POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND PRACTICES RELATING TO THE PROMOTION OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Accompanies USM Policy on Academic Integrity - III-1.00
Approved by Board of Regents - December 16, 2022

(Guidelines are amendable without additional Board of Regents approval.)

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide institutions in the University System of Maryland a framework for policies, procedures, and practices designed to instill and promote a culture of teaching and learning with integrity, to prevent academic misconduct, and to discover and censure instances of academic misconduct when they occur. Using these guidelines, each institution in the System must prepare, implement, and publicize policies and procedures including disciplinary measures appropriate for its unique organization and administration, as required by III-1.00: USM Policy on Academic Integrity.

These guidelines apply to academic conduct of persons fulfilling requirements for courses or programs, including in examinations, not misconduct in scholarly work covered in the USM Policy on Misconduct in Scholarly Work (III-1.10), which applies primarily to faculty, staff, and student research, scholarly writing, and the creation of works of art.

II. PHILOSOPHY OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Institutions should consider developing a statement that establishes a vision for teaching, learning, and supporting student success with integrity across the academic experience on their campus. It should be aspirational, describing high-level values, commitments, and principles that will guide the university's efforts to intentionally instill, maintain, and enhance a shared culture of integrity, through integrity-related policies, procedures, and practices.

III. DEFINITIONS

According to the policy, USM institutions must develop and include in their policies and practices clear definitions for academic integrity as well as for the kinds of behaviors they consider to be academic misconduct as detailed in USM's Policy on Academic Integrity (III-1.00). Some examples include:

A. Academic Integrity: "A commitment, even in the face of adversity, to six fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage."[*]

B. Academic Misconduct: Academic misconduct can include, but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism: The intentional or unintentional use and re-use of one's own or another person's ideas, theories, words, data, work, or product.

2. Cheating: To use or attempt to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercise. This includes unauthorized communication of

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[*] http://www.academicintegrity.org

information during the execution of an examination or other activity to fulfill course requirements.

3. Misrepresentation: Any act or omission that is intended to deceive for academic advantage, such as fabricating or falsifying information in an academic exercise.

4. Facilitating Academic Dishonesty: To help or attempt to help another person commit an act of academic dishonesty, including the unauthorized uploading or sale of course materials to third-party study-aid websites (e.g. CourseHero, Chegg).

IV. BEST PRACTICES IN ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The most effective and enforceable academic integrity policies and procedures are transparent, inclusive, equitable, and fair. Accordingly, USM institutions should consider developing written policies and procedures that:

A. Clearly reflect and communicate the expectations of all stakeholders in the institution.

B. Are easily understood, ADA- and Title VI compliant, available in a variety of languages appropriate to members of the community, and broadly disseminated using a variety of methods.

C. Ensure due process and maintain confidentiality in reporting, recording, adjudicating, and sanctioning of alleged acts of academic misconduct.

D. Identify the responsibility of all members of the academic community for reporting misconduct.

E. Include consequences for intentional or unintentional academic misconduct, when established, that reflect the seriousness and/or repetitiveness of the behavior, ranging from educational remediation to expulsion.

F. Provide for regular and transparent evaluation of the success of its implementation, administration, and enforcement of policies and procedures.

V. CREATING A CULTURE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

While establishing a culture of academic integrity will be unique to each institution, research[*] suggests there are multiple ways institutions can successfully implement policies, procedures, and practices that foster academic integrity by:

A. Clearly and regularly articulating how a culture of academic integrity supports achieving the institution's mission and vision.

B. Educating all members of the community about academic integrity standards so that expectations are well understood as integral components of the community culture.

C. Re-envisioning pedagogy to include equitable practice as well as demonstrated competencies and learning outcomes where relevant.

D. Establishing on-campus partnerships and collaborations to help faculty create positive pedagogical environments and promote integrity in the classroom.

E. Developing and publicizing clear, fair, academic integrity policies, procedures, and statements that can be effectively understood, procedurally sound, and consistently implemented.

F. Promoting the positive aspects of academic integrity among all segments of the campus community.

G. Regularly reviewing academic integrity policies to ensure that they are consistent, equitable and transparent, effective at their stated purpose, address changes in the field (e.g., new

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[*] Adapted from https://academicintegrity.org/images/pdfs/20019_ICAI-Fundamental-Values_R12.pdf

technology and evolving methods of misconduct), educational, and forward looking in their scope.

H. Supporting those who follow the policies and procedures to uphold institutional standards for academic integrity.

I. Creating and promoting support services that encourage student success such as tutoring centers, writing labs, counseling services, accessibility services, etc.

J. Dedicating institutional resources to these goals, even when resources are scarce.

K. Regularly evaluating progress toward creating a culture of academic integrity.