

College of Engineering Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is any action or attempted action that may result in creating an unfair academic advantage for oneself or an unfair academic advantage or disadvantage for any other member or members of the academic community. Below are some basic definitions and examples of academic misconduct.

Cheating

Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question, such as:

- Copying or attempting to copy from others during a test.
- Allowing someone to copy from you during an exam (or other individual assignment).
- Communicating answers with another person during a test.
- Preprogramming an electronic device (e.g. calculator) to contain answers or other unauthorized information for tests.
- Using unauthorized materials, prepared answers, written notes, or concealed information during a test.
- Taking a test for another person or having someone take a test for you.
- Collaborating on a test or assignment without prior approval from the instructor.
- Allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment for you, including the use of a commercial term-paper service.
- Copying or attempting to copy from others on a home or class assignment.
- Putting your name on another person's test or assignment.
- Altering a previously graded test or assignment for purposes of a grade appeal or of gaining points in a re-grading process.
- Using unauthorized material from websites or other sources in the completion of homework, projects, exams, or other assignments. This includes unauthorized use of solution manuals or solution websites.

Plagiarism

Representing the work of another person as your own is plagiarism. Plagiarism includes copying the language, structure, programming, computer code, ideas, and/or thoughts of another person without acknowledging the source, and passing off the same as one's own original work. Examples of plagiarism include the following:

- Copying passages from works of others into your homework, spreadsheet, lab report, essay, term paper, computer code, or dissertation without acknowledgment.
- Paraphrasing of another person's characteristic or original phraseology, metaphor, or other literary device without acknowledgment.
- Submitting a report, paper or other work or document written by someone else and representing it as your work.

False Information and Representation, Fabrication or Alteration of Information

Falsification includes the statement of any untruth, either verbally or in writing, with respect to any circumstances relevant to one's academic work or the work of another. This definition includes the following:

- Knowingly furnishing false information in the context of an academic assignment.
- Misrepresenting or failing to identify oneself honestly in the context of an academic obligation.
- Fabricating or altering information or data and presenting it as legitimate.
- Forging a signature.
- Tampering with official records.
- Providing false or misleading information to an instructor or any other University official.

Theft or Damage of Intellectual Property

- Sabotaging or stealing another person's academic work, including assignments, books, papers, notes, data, experiments, projects, spreadsheets, files, hardware or software.
- Unauthorized removal of works from a library or other repository.
- Damaging, destroying or defacing works from a library or other repository.
- Improper access to, or electronically interfering with, the property of another person or the University via computer or other means.
- Obtaining a copy of an exam or assignment prior to its approved release by the instructor.

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Penalties for Academic Misconduct

- The penalty for a Level 1 offense (as defined in the Lowdown) will be determined by the instructor for the course in which the offense occurs.
- The minimum penalty for a Level II offense (as defined in the Lowdown) will be a one-semester suspension from the University of South Alabama. The time of the suspension (i.e., current semester or subsequent semester) will be determined by the Academic Standards Committee at the time of the Level II hearing.