

Title	: Academic Integrity	
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Statement of Principle

Academic integrity is a vital part of the culture of all successful institutions of higher learning. The value of the degrees, certificates, and coursework offered by Eastern Arizona College (EAC or the College) greatly depends on its reputation as an institution dedicated to academic honesty. This Academic Integrity Policy provides guidance in helping students and faculty understand the meaning and importance of academic integrity; defines academic dishonesty; and outlines the procedures for handling infractions of academic integrity. Each member of the EAC community is charged with honoring and upholding the policies and procedures governing academic integrity as set forth below.

Definition of Terms

As used in this regulation:

Academic evaluation refers to any assignment, project, test, essay, quiz, performance, or other task or instrument by which students demonstrate mastery of course content, thus earning credit toward a class grade.

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility associated with study, learning, and scholarship.

Academic misconduct means any act contrary to Academic Integrity, such as cheating, plagiarism, and earning grades dishonestly (see Section IV).

Academic standards are the rules and principles by which grades, student conduct, professional educator conduct, and class materials are evaluated.

Admissions and Academic Standards Appeals Committee serves as the appeals committee for grievances concerning academic standards; compiles and considers reports on the nature and frequency of academic misconduct; hears charges and evidence of repeated or particularly serious academic misconduct; and imposes sanctions when such types of academic misconduct is determined to have occurred.

College means any and all Graham County Community College District (GCCCD) locations to which Eastern Arizona College delivers instructional services to students enrolled for credit.

Dean is the administrator who, under the direction of the Vice President of Academic Affairs, supervises several academic divisions and other specified college areas.

District refers to the Graham County Community College District.

Plagiarism is the use of another person’s words, materials, work, and ideas, and adoption of an actual document, including a document available electronically, without properly acknowledging and documenting the source. A paper that is written by Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated work is not considered a student’s original work. Thus, using AI to generate assignments without proper attribution is a form of plagiarism.

Professional educator is employed by the College as the instructor of record, contributing/substitute instructor of record, proctor, GCCCD staff, or employee responsible for delivering instructional services and/or resources to students.

Restricted course materials are materials that are kept within the control of a professional educator to be delivered to enrolled students in a controlled manner. Restricting access to materials such as examinations, quizzes, and various assignments allows professional educators to control the resources available to students completing such evaluations, thus providing a uniform assessment of the knowledge and abilities that a student has obtained through his or her coursework. Examinations, quizzes, and assignments that are deliberately made available to the public by the professional educator of a course and without limitations are not restricted course materials.

Student means a person who is registered in a College course.

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs means the Chief Academic Officer for the GCCCD.



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Student Responsibilities

Students are responsible for understanding the College’s Academic Integrity Policy as well as the sanctions that may be imposed as a result of academic misconduct. Students are also responsible for understanding their appeal rights associated with findings of any policy violation. If the expectations and limitations of an assignment or assessment are unclear, students are expected to ask for clarification.

Students shall practice the provisions of the Academic Integrity Policy and uphold integrity in their academic pursuits.

Academic Integrity Policy

Students at Eastern Arizona College are expected to:

- Conduct themselves in accordance with principles of academic integrity
- Behave so as to foster an atmosphere of honesty and fairness
- Avoid plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct
- Give truthful information to any College professional educator or to any other College employee regarding issues concerning academic integrity or academic misconduct, or suspected academic misconduct
- Not alter, misuse, or forge any College document, record, or instrument of identification.

Students are not excused from these provisions because of any failure or inability on the part of the professional educator to prevent other instances of academic misconduct.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct includes any act that improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement, or any act designed to deceive a professional educator. This definition applies whether the student’s act of misconduct affects his or her own work or the work of other students. Specific infractions include, but are not limited to, the following:

Cheating on Examinations

Cheating includes the use of crib sheets, “cheat sheets,” or discarded computer programs; aid from other persons; copying from another student’s work; and soliciting and giving or receiving unauthorized aid orally, electronically, or in writing. The student will not consult books, notes, calculators, or other materials of any kind during an examination or assignment without the express permission of the instructor. If calculators, spellers, or other hand-held electronic devices are permitted to be used during an examination or assignment, no information may be programmed into or retrieved from the device other than that expressly permitted by the instructor. Students in online or hybrid courses are responsible for maintaining the security of course materials and are forbidden to share examination materials and other restricted course materials with anyone. Any act that compromises the security, validity, or effectiveness of an academic evaluation, whether it is a regular assignment, a quiz, an examination, or an evaluation of another sort, is academic misconduct.

Inappropriate Collaboration

Permission from an instructor for students to “work together” on homework, an assignment, or paper is not permission for one student to present another student’s work as his or her own. Unless the professional educator specifies otherwise, all work submitted for a grade or credit toward completion of a course will be the product of the student’s own understanding, expressed in the student’s own words, calculations, computer code, etc. One form of inappropriate collaboration involves having another person significantly alter either the content or grammar of the student’s written work. A student may seek feedback from another student or individual concerning a document’s content, grammar, and spelling, but to avoid this type



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of inappropriate collaboration, the student must fix problems himself or herself.

Collusion

Collusion is the act of assisting others in their ventures of academic misconduct. Collusion includes but is not limited to providing advance copies of examinations and other restricted course materials; providing essays or other written assignments to others; acting as a “ghost writer” and significantly contributing to the written work of another without making your contributions known to the instructor and acquiring permission for such contributions; posing as another person in order to complete course work, examinations, or other academic work on that person’s behalf; working to conceal the academic misconduct of another student.

Submitting the Same Assignment for Different Classes

Submitting the same assignment for a second class violates the assumption that every assignment advances a student’s learning and growth. Unless instructors of both classes involved expressly allow it, submitting an assignment already submitted for another class is a breach of academic integrity.

Intentional Misrepresentation

Misrepresentation occurs when a student claims that source materials contain information or phrasing that they do not. In addition, misrepresentation occurs when a student omits or inserts words, changes words, misquotes, or takes correctly quoted phrases out of context. If this is done with the intent to deceive a professional educator in any academic evaluation, the student has committed a breach of academic integrity.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism means presenting someone else’s ideas or words as one’s own. Plagiarism may involve some degree of intent or may be the result of carelessness or ignorance of acceptable forms for citation. Not knowing how or when to cite a source does not excuse an act of plagiarism. Each of the four kinds of plagiarism below is a breach of academic integrity.

1. Copying without citation, the most serious form of plagiarism, involves copying part or all of a paper from the Internet, from a book or magazine, or from another source without indicating that the work is someone else’s. To avoid this form of plagiarism, quoted material must be placed in quotation marks and one of the standard forms of documentation (APA, MLA, etc.) must be used to indicate where the material came from.
2. Copying from an external source and citing the source but failing to show (by the use of quotation marks, for example) that the material is a direct quotation is another form of plagiarism. Simply documenting the source does not indicate that the words themselves are someone else’s. Avoiding this form of plagiarism involves putting all quoted material in quotation marks or using the format designated by APA, MLA etc. to indicate quoted material.
3. Incorrect paraphrasing is another form of plagiarism. Paraphrasing involves putting a lengthy phrase, sentence, or group of sentences written by another into one’s own words, thereby making it significantly different from the original. Changing a few words, or rearranging words, is not proper paraphrasing, and though the source is cited (as is always required with paraphrased material), wording remains substantially that of another and cannot rightfully be represented as original. Avoiding this form of plagiarism involves either making the material a direct quote by using quotation marks and citing the source, or paraphrasing properly by substantially changing the original to new words; again, making sure to cite the source.
4. Presenting arguments, lines of reasoning, or facts learned from someone else without citing the source, even if the material is paraphrased, is another form of plagiarism. The source must be properly cited.

Improper Influence

Attempting to influence a grade or to receive any other academic benefit not earned through the normal exercise of academic



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effort by offering anything of value, including the performance of services to a professional educator, College employee, other College student, or any other person, is academic misconduct.

Procedures, Sanctions and Appeals

The Professional Educator

The College respects and accepts the professional educator’s qualifications and rights to determine academic standards. The professional educator is accountable for establishing and maintaining appropriate academic standards for coursework and for informing students of any special rules or practices for a particular class.

When a professional educator becomes aware of a possible violation of academic integrity by one of his or her students, a confidential conference between the professional educator and the student should be held to discuss the perceived violation and its consequences. If, following the conversation, the professional educator is satisfied that a violation has occurred, he or she may determine that one or more of the following consequences are appropriate and impose such penalty:

- Issuing a verbal or written reprimand
- Requiring that the academic project or examination in question be repeated
- Assigning the academic project or examination in question a reduced grade
- Requiring that the academic project or examination in question be repeated for a reduced grade.
- Assigning the academic project or examination in question a failing grade
- Assigning a reduced grade in the course
- Assigning a failing grade in the course
- Initiating the student’s involuntary withdrawal from the course.

The professional educator will resolve most violations in the above manner.

The professional educator will report each violation and its disposition to the appropriate Dean within five business days of the occurrence; the appropriate Dean will report it to the Admissions and Academic Standards Appeals Committee. If the professional educator feels that the violation in question was especially serious or repeated, he or she may recommend that additional penalties be imposed.

The Admissions and Academic Standards Appeals Committee

The Admissions and Academic Standards Appeals Committee will be notified of all acts of academic misconduct. Such reports will be noted in the agenda and minutes of committee meetings. The committee may report the incidence and nature of these violations to the faculty and administration at appropriate intervals.

When, in the opinion of the committee, evidence of repeated or especially serious offenses exists, or upon the recommendation of the professional educator involved, the Admissions and Academic Standards Appeals Committee will consider the case and may decide to impose one or more of the following additional penalties against a violator:

- Placing a written reprimand in the student’s permanent file
- Restricting the student’s access to certain college resources
- Requiring the student to complete an academic integrity education program
- Placing the student on academic probation.

If the Admissions and Academic Standards Appeals Committee concludes that the violation is so serious as to possibly



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warrant the student’s exclusion from extracurricular college activities, or suspension or dismissal from the College, it will make that recommendation to the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs.

The Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs

The Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs will resolve the most serious acts of academic misconduct. Only the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs has authority to suspend or expel a student from the College for academic misconduct.

After receiving recommendation from the Admissions and Academic Standards Appeals Committee that a violation of academic integrity may warrant the student’s dismissal from the College, the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs will consider the evidence and render a decision which shall be binding, subject only to student appeals as otherwise provided. The Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs may impose additional penalties against a violator, which may include:

- Censure and exclusion from extracurricular college activities, including student government, athletics, performances, or other activities of the college community
- Suspension for a specified period of time
- Expulsion from the College without expectation of readmission.

A Student’s Right to Appeal

A student may appeal any decision to impose discipline as a result of academic misconduct through the established Grievance Procedure and Official Review Process for Academic Standards (GCCCD 5810.02).

