

## AN S20 COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, EQUITABLE INSTRUCTION, TRUST, AND RESPECT

(Endorsed by the Faculty Senate, the GPSA, and the SA, April 2020)

The switch to online instruction in the context of the pandemic creates vulnerabilities and opportunities associated with teaching and learning. All members of the Cornell community are being challenged: faculty and staff hastily converting to virtual instruction and students coping with the loss of personal connection and in-person education. Difficult times require empathy, patience, and a renewed commitment to the following principles, many of which also have foundation in various Cornell policies<sup>1</sup>:

### For Students:

1. I will be a respectful, professional online member of the course, who supports my classmates' ability to participate and access course materials and who does not undermine the work of the instructor. This includes rejecting and not engaging in any form of device-enabled harassment or disruption.
2. I will respect principles of academic freedom for instructors and classmates and will maintain the privacy of the virtual classroom environment: I will not record, photograph, or share online interactions that involve classmates or any member of the teaching team. I will not enable anyone who is not enrolled in the course to participate in any activity that is associated with the course. Exceptions require the instructor's written permission.
3. I will respect the intellectual property rights of the instructor by not making course materials accessible to anyone who is not enrolled in the course without the instructor's written permission.
4. I will follow the rules set forth by the instructor that concern online, device-enabled, and in-person collaboration, discussion, and sharing.
5. I will complete assignments and examinations in a manner that respects the instructor's guidance and the integrity of the instructor's evaluation of my work.

### For Faculty:

1. I will pay careful attention to workload, scheduling policies, and time zones understanding that online instruction in multiple courses can lead to unacceptable levels of competition for the student's time.
2. I will approach accommodation requests with trust, empathy and appropriate levels of flexibility, and will afford necessary accommodations to address disability needs.
3. I will promote classroom equity by taking steps to ensure that no student is disadvantaged because they have to work in a challenging environment or one that has limited resources and internet connectivity.
4. I will promote fairness by taking into account health concerns and added caregiving responsibilities that are related to the pandemic.
5. I will make sure my students understand the rules and boundaries that I impose about submitted work even as I encourage collaborative learning.
6. I will do everything I can to make sure the entire teaching team is accessible to students through email, Zoom, Canvas, and other platforms as appropriate.
7. I will make sure that my teaching assistants and graders understand the above principles and that collectively we will work to uphold the Code of Academic Integrity and other Cornell policies.

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<sup>1</sup> See the [Code of Academic Integrity](#), the [Campus Code of Conduct](#), [Policy 6.4](#) (Harassment and Bias), and [Policy 4.15](#) (Copyright) among other relevant policies.