

ACADEMIC FRAUD AND THE HONOR SYSTEM

Academic fraud is one of the areas of university life that fall within the scope of the Honor System. Violating the Honor Code requirements of an assignment or failing to credit one's sources constitutes academic fraud and would, therefore, violate the Honor Code.

It is the responsibility of each student to complete all assignments according to the requirements set forth by the professor. All assignments submitted at the University are pledged, either explicitly or implicitly, and students fulfill their responsibilities to their fellow students under the Honor System when they can pledge, in good conscience, that their work is their own.

Cultures differ in their views about the ownership of ideas. In some cultures people believe that ideas, like air and sunshine, cannot be owned, and they do not acknowledge those who first publish ideas. Some countries are only now developing laws for ownership of patents and copyrights. Rice University is not part of such traditions: it follows Western conventions for dealing with intellectual properties. Its Code of Conduct acknowledges the unique intellectual contributions of individuals at the same time it recognizes that all individuals rely on the concepts, creations, and inventions of others. Although some students come from countries and cultures that do not recognize individual contributions to knowledge, Rice University expects these students and all other students and faculty to participate in an academic community that honors the intellectual work of others and acknowledges their influences. This community's commitment is formally recorded in a system of rules called The Honor Code. This booklet explains how these rules apply to the use of other people's ideas and works in student papers and presentations.

Rice decided to prepare this booklet after examining an exemplary handbook written for students at the University of Virginia. We gratefully acknowledge the University of Virginia's generosity in allowing us to imitate the organization and content of their student guide, Academic Fraud and the Honor System. Additional content assistance was also drawn from Wesleyan University's The Blue Book. A Definition of Academic Fraud

On all academic written work done by students at Rice University, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized aid on this (examination, quiz or paper)."

This statement is regarded as an indication that the student understands and has complied with the requirements of the assignment as set forth by the professor. Any violation of the pledge that occurs outside of a testing situation is considered academic fraud. There are several types of academic fraud, and they are as follows:

I. Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined by the Honor Council as: "quoting, paraphrasing, or otherwise using another's words or ideas as one's own without properly crediting the source." All specifically designated written assignments are conducted under the Honor System. In preparing written work, research and the utilization of another person's words or ideas is in many cases essential. The Honor Council assumes that, unless otherwise credited, all work submitted by the student is intended to be considered as his or her own work. Any time a student draws particularly or generally from another's work, the source should be properly credited. What is meant by proper crediting is left to the discretion of the professor. A professor, when assigning a paper, should make known to the students what is expected in the researching and referencing of the paper. However, it is the student's responsibility to find out from each professor how work for that professor should be credited. Neglect of proper citation shall be considered academic fraud.

II. Multiple Submission

Multiple submission is the resubmission of any work by a student that has been used in identical or similar form in fulfillment of any academic requirement at this or another institution. Under certain conditions a student may be permitted to rewrite an earlier work or to satisfy two academic requirements by producing a single piece of work, more extensive than that which would satisfy either requirement on its own. In such cases, however, the student must secure prior permission from each instructor involved. If the student has revised an earlier essay, the earlier essay should be submitted with the final version. If a single extended essay has been written for more than one course, the fact must be clearly indicated at the beginning of the essay. Thus, submitting the same work for credit in more than one class, either concurrently or consecutively, without prior permission from the professor shall be

considered academic fraud.

III. False Citation

A false citation is any attribution to, or citation of, a source from which the referenced material was not in fact obtained, including use of a quoted reference from a non-original source while implying reference to the original source. This shall be considered academic fraud.

IV. False Data

False data are data that have been altered or contrived in such a way as to be deliberately misleading. The submission of such data shall be considered academic fraud.

