

## STUDENT ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Approval Authority	Senate
Responsible Executive	Provost and Vice-President, Academic
Related Policies / Legislation	Grading System (101) Appropriate Use of Computing and Network Resources (14) Copyright Compliance (7) Responsible Conduct of Research and Scholarship (53) Intellectual Property (55) Human Research Ethics (54) Safe Student Learning Community (204) UFV Statement on Institutional Ethics (22) <i>University Act, s. 35.2 (5)(j) &amp; s. 35.2 (6)(j)</i>

### PURPOSE

The University of the Fraser Valley is committed to upholding and promoting Academic Integrity and acting when Academic Misconduct occurs. This is part of creating a scholarly community characterized by honesty and integrity. This policy outlines individual and collective responsibilities related to Academic Integrity and Misconduct.

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### SCOPE

This policy applies to all students and employees at UFV and to all UFV campuses, including the virtual campus.

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### DEFINITIONS

In this policy, the following definitions apply:

**Academic Integrity:** “Refers to the values on which good Academic Work must be founded: honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. Academic integrity includes a commitment not to engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation, or deception. Such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the University community and compromise the worth of work completed by others.”<sup>1</sup>

**Academic Misconduct:** Refers to behaviours which could result in a student receiving an unfair or unearned advantage in their Academic Work over other students and which violate the principles of Academic Integrity. “Specific examples of Academic Misconduct covered by this

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<sup>1</sup> SFU (2009, May 1). *Code of Academic Integrity and Good Conduct*. Retrieved from <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student/s10-01.html>.

policy include plagiarism; cheating; fabrication, falsification, or modification of academic documents or records; resubmission of work; improper research practices; obstructing the academic activities of others; and aiding and abetting. Definitions and examples of these forms of Academic Misconduct are provided in the Procedures and Regulations document.

**Academic Work:** Refers to any instrument used for measuring a Student's attainment of specified educational outcomes, including, but not limited to, assignments, term papers and essays, examinations, tests, quizzes, essays, projects, clinical and practicum placements, internships, presentations, online discussions, performances, exhibitions, blogs and/or informal writing, or research papers/projects.

**Business Days:** Business days refer to days that the university is fully open for business, whether for all or part of the day. Business days do not include weekends, statutory holidays, or institutional closures for weather, holiday, or other reasons.

**Employee:** A person who is employed by or contracted with the university or an agent of the university including, but not limited to, faculty, staff, sessional instructors, and security personnel

**Procedures and Regulations:** Refers to the process and regulations which are used and followed when pursuing an allegation of Academic Misconduct

**Standard of Proof:** The allegation is more likely to be true than not true based on the findings of the investigation.

**Student:** A person who has been enrolled in, is currently enrolled in, or is accepted for enrollment in at least one University course, for credit or non-credit at the undergraduate or graduate level

**University:** University of the Fraser Valley

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## **RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITY**

"All members of the University community share the responsibility for the academic standards and reputation of the University. Academic Integrity is a cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge. It is founded on principles of respect for knowledge, truth, scholarship, and acting with honesty. Academic Misconduct, in whatever form, is ultimately destructive of the values of the University. Furthermore, it is unfair and discouraging to the majority of Students who pursue their studies honestly."<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> SFU (2009, May 1). *Code of Academic Integrity and Good Conduct*. Retrieved from <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student/s10-01.html>.

### **Students have responsibilities and rights to:**

- “Ensure they are familiar with the generally accepted standards and requirements of academic integrity. Ignorance of these standards will not preclude the imposition of penalties for academic misconduct.”<sup>3</sup>
- Uphold the standards of academic integrity in all Academic Work.
- “Ensure that any tutors or other professionals that they work with outside of the University are familiar with this Policy and the possible consequences for violating it.”<sup>4</sup>
- Hold their peers accountable to standards of Academic Integrity. If a Student is made aware of the Academic Misconduct of another Student, they need to report this to a University Employee, such as a faculty member.
- Defend themselves against allegations of Academic Misconduct.
- Seek support when dealing with allegations of Academic Misconduct and bring a support person with them to any meetings or hearings.
- Have allegations of Academic Misconduct handled according to the principles of procedural fairness as outlined in the Procedures and Regulations document.
- Appeal Academic Misconduct decisions based on the grounds stipulated in the Procedures and Regulations document.

### **Faculty members have responsibilities and rights to:**

- “Inform their Students at the beginning of each semester of the criteria for Academic Integrity that pertain to a class or course, including the format for acknowledging the thoughts and writings of authors that is acceptable to the underlying discipline.”<sup>5</sup> All criteria must align with Policy 70, including its Procedures and Regulations.
- “Impart other relevant information, such as the acceptable level of group work in the class or course” as relevant to Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct.<sup>6</sup>
- Uphold Academic Integrity by ensuring Student compliance and by dealing with cases of Academic Misconduct as outlined in Procedures and Regulations document.
- Uphold the Standard of Proof when adjudicating alleged Academic Misconduct.
- Receive support from the University in dealing with Academic Misconduct.

### **The University has responsibilities and rights to:**

- Uphold academic integrity.
- Educate employees and students about academic integrity.
- Develop, publish, and maintain procedures and regulations for dealing with allegations of Academic Misconduct.
- “Evaluate, investigate, and adjudicate allegations of Academic Misconduct”<sup>7</sup> according to the principles of procedural fairness as outlined in the Procedures and Regulations document.

<sup>3</sup> SFU (2009, May 1). *Code of Academic Integrity and Good Conduct*. Retrieved from <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student/s10-01.html>.

<sup>4</sup> Emily Carr (2017, May 1). *Academic Integrity Policy*. Retrieved from <https://www.ecuad.ca/assets/content-images/4.17-Academic-Integrity-Policy.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> SFU (2009, May 1). *Code of Academic Integrity and Good Conduct*. Retrieved from <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student/s10-01.html>.

<sup>6</sup> SFU (2009, May 1). *Code of Academic Integrity and Good Conduct*. Retrieved from <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/gazette/student/s10-01.html>.

<sup>7</sup> KPU (2017, May 1). *Student Academic Integrity Policy*. Retrieved from

<http://www.kpu.ca/sites/default/files/Polices/ST2%20Student%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy.pdf>.

- “Impose disciplinary sanctions that reflect the nature and severity of any Academic Misconduct”<sup>8</sup> as outlined in the Procedures and Regulations document.
- Uphold the Standard of Proof when adjudicating alleged Academic Misconduct.
- Maintain an Academic Misconduct registry and submit high level reports on incidences of Academic Misconduct, including decisions and sanctions, to the University Senate.
- Handle information and records related to Academic Misconduct in compliance with British Columbia’s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the provisions outlined in the Procedures and Regulations document.

### **Duty to Report Academic Misconduct**

“All members of the University community have an obligation to report potential incidents of Academic Misconduct in a timely fashion to a University Employee.”<sup>9</sup>

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### **POLICY**

Students are expected to carry out their Academic Work with honesty, to meet the highest ethical standards, to respect the facts and appropriate standards of evidence, and to acknowledge the contributions and scholarship of others. The University is committed to educating Students so as to enable them to uphold Academic Integrity, supporting Employees in dealing with alleged cases of Academic Misconduct, and ensuring that all members of the University community take responsibility for upholding and modeling the values of Academic Integrity.

The University will investigate all allegations of Academic Misconduct, while taking reasonable steps to protect the rights and interests of individuals whose Academic Work is questioned.

Procedures, regulations, and further information on evaluating, investigating, and adjudicating Academic Misconduct may be found in the related Procedures and Regulations document. The University Registrar is responsible to ensure the Procedures and Regulations are annually reviewed in consultation with the UFV community, and will bring forward recommended revisions to Senate for approval. The Procedures and Regulations are available at the link below:

[https://www.ufv.ca/media/assets/secretariat/policies/Student-Academic-Misconduct-\(70\)-Procedures.pdf](https://www.ufv.ca/media/assets/secretariat/policies/Student-Academic-Misconduct-(70)-Procedures.pdf)

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<sup>8</sup> KPU (2017, May 1). *Student Academic Integrity Policy*. Retrieved from <http://www.kpu.ca/sites/default/files/Policies/ST2%20Student%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> KPU (2017, May 1). *Student Academic Integrity Policy*. Retrieved from <http://www.kpu.ca/sites/default/files/Policies/ST2%20Student%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy.pdf>.