

ACADEMIC HONESTY

*Reference: Education Code Section 66300, BP 5500, AP 5500
(Board approval pending)*

Academic honesty depends upon the integrity of the students and faculty. The college itself is defrauded if faculty and/or students knowingly or unwittingly allow dishonest acts to be rewarded academically. It is the faculty's responsibility to make every reasonable effort to foster honest academic conduct. If the faculty member believes that there is evidence of academic dishonesty on the part of a student it is the faculty member's responsibility to take appropriate action in accordance with these procedures.

Students at Gavilan College have the right to know what constitutes academic honesty at the college and in each course in which they are enrolled.

- Faculty members will apprise their classes of the ethical standards required in their courses and the permissible procedures in class work and examinations.
- A statement referring to this policy as a reference for the class will be presented in the course outline and/or on the individual examinations.
- Students will be informed of the consequences of violating these standards, their rights of appeal, and the procedures to be followed in the appeal.

Academic Honesty Procedures

The purpose of this procedure is to expand, clarify, and set forth clear levels of authority and disciplinary protocols in response to violations of the standards of student conduct, specifically as it relates to academic honesty. These procedures guarantee the student or students involved the due process rights extended to them by state and federal constitutional protections. The procedures will be used in a fair and equitable manner, and not for purposes of retaliation.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty: The act of deliberately exhibiting a set of unacceptable behaviors that defy ethical and scholarship standards. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Purposely allowing a student to copy from another student during a test.
- Giving homework, term paper or other academic work to another student to plagiarize.
- Having one person's work submitted in another's name.

- Lying to an instructor or college official to improve a grade.
- Altering graded work after it has been returned, then submitting for re-grading (without knowledge of the instructor).
- Removing test(s) from the classroom or any other place without instructor's approval.
- Stealing tests or keys to tests.
- Forging signatures on drop/add slips or other college documents.

Definition of Cheating: The act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Copying, in part or in whole, from another's test or other evaluation instrument or obtaining answers from another person during a test without the instructor's approval.
- Submitting work previously presented in another course, if contrary to the written rules of the course.
- Using or consulting, during an examination, sources or materials not specifically authorized by the instructor.
- Intentionally altering, changing, misusing documents or records. Knowingly furnishing false information or generally interfering with grading procedures or instruction of a class.
- Any other act committed by student(s) in the course of academic work, which defrauds or misrepresents, including aiding or abetting, in any of the actions defined above.

Definition of Plagiarism: The act of incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof, or the specific substance of another's work without giving appropriate credit, and representing the product as one's own work. An example can include, but is not limited to:

- Representing another's artistic/scholarly works such as musical compositions, writings, computer programs, photographs, paintings, drawings, scriptures, or similar works as one's own.

Reporting Procedures

When a Gavilan College faculty member, responsible for a course, has reason to believe, and has evidence to substantiate, that the behavior of a student or students falls within one or both of the above sets of definitions, it is an instructor's responsibility to take the following steps:

1. Arrange an office conference with the student and at that time advise the student of the allegations and make him or her aware of the supporting evidence and the probable consequences. Any classroom confrontation should be as discreet as possible. If, as a result of this meeting, the instructor believes that the student's response is insufficient to offset the charge of academic dishonesty to the extent that the student may be excused, the instructor will inform the student of the sanctions to be recommended or assessed in accordance with this policy.
2. At the discretion of the instructor, a written report of the infraction and the sanction taken may be submitted to the Vice President of Academic Affairs with a copy to the appropriate area dean.
3. When a student, who has been informed of an impending conference to discuss the alleged dishonesty, fails to attend, or when the apparent dishonesty is detected near the end of the semester and the instructor makes a good faith effort to contact the student but is unable to do so, the instructor may impose the recommended sanctions and file a written report to the area dean and Chief Instruction Officer without a conference. In either case, the student's right to appeal is preserved.

Sanctions

There shall be two major classifications of sanctions that may be imposed for academic honesty violations: academic and administrative. The imposition of one variety of sanction (Academic or Administrative) will not preclude the addition of the other.

- Academic sanctions will be defined as those actions related to coursework and grades. Faculty are responsible for the type of academic sanction to be applied to students involved in incidents of cheating or plagiarism. Usually a form of grade modification will be employed.
- Administrative sanctions concern a student's status on campus and are acted on by the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Faculty Discretion: Cases involving the careless or inept handling of quoted material but falls short of the definitions of the acts of cheating and/or plagiarism as defined in this policy, may be dealt with at the discretion of the faculty member concerned.

Academic Sanctions: Before sanctions can be employed, the faculty member must have verified the instance(s) of academic dishonesty by personal observation and/or documentation. In all cases the violation should be reported to the Vice President of Academic Affairs. A student may be:

1. Reprimanded orally. A student may be referred for counseling but cannot be required to seek counseling.
2. Failed in the evaluation instrument (paper or exam).
3. Reduced course grade reflecting the failed instrument.
4. Referred for administrative sanctions. A faculty member may choose to refer a student to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for disciplinary action in lieu of any academic sanction or in addition to the academic action the faculty member has taken.

Administrative Sanctions: As stipulated in the California Administrative Code, Sanction 41301, cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program at a campus may warrant expulsion, suspension, probation or a lesser sanction. Administrative action involving academic dishonesty at Gavilan is the responsibility of the Vice President of Academic Affairs according to the Standards of Student Conduct (Student Discipline Procedures, AP5520). The Vice President of Academic Affairs will notify faculty members involved when action has been taken.

The Vice President of Academic Affairs will respond to:

1. referrals from the faculty
2. flagrant violations of academic standards; and
3. repeat violations as brought to his/her attention by the faculty or through the student reports filed with the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Protection of Rights

Nothing in this procedure is intended to deny students who come within its scope appropriate "due process". Students have the right to be informed of the charges, the nature of the evidence supporting the charges, and to have a meeting with the faculty member, Vice President of Academic Affairs, or other decision-makers. Students have the right to appeal any decision resulting from such a meeting.

1. Academic sanctions may be appealed through the Vice President of Academic Affairs in accordance with the Students' Problem Resolution Process.
2. Administrative sanctions resulting in disciplinary suspension or expulsion can be appealed through the Student Discipline Procedures. (Student Discipline Procedures, AP5520) (Education Code 66017).