Academic Honesty

What it is
What SCC says about it
How to avoid it

What is Academic Honesty

According to Lipson, academic honesty is:
- Do all of your own academic work yourself.
- Cite and reference information borrowed from someone else.
- Report researched information accurately and without personal bias.

What does academic dishonesty mean?

- Copying from someone else’s test and representing it as your own
- Submitting someone else’s work as your own
- Submitting the same assignment done for an earlier course to a current course you are in
- Altering a grade
What does academic dishonesty mean (Cont.)

- Cheating during an exam
- Having someone take an exam for you
- Plagiarizing someone’s work
- Allowing other students to copy and turn in work you did as their own
- Lying to your instructors
- Submitting essays and research papers bought from a paper mill

What happens at SCC if you are dishonest?

- Failing grade on a test
- Lowered course grade
- Failing course grade
- Disciplinary probation
- Suspension or even expulsion from the college

Why are students dishonest

- They may be:
  - Overloaded with coursework and other obligations
    - Rushed
    - Desperate
    - Ignorant of what constitutes academic dishonesty
How to avoid academic dishonesty

- **Rushed/Desperate/Overloaded**
  - Evaluate how many units you can reasonably take and still do a good job
  - Practice good time management: sacrifice to find a proper amount of time to study for tests and write papers
  - Use all of the college resources to help you be a good student

How to avoid academic dishonesty (Cont.)

- **Ignorance**
  - Be aware of what’s in your instructor’s syllabus about academic honesty
  - Be aware of what the college will do if you are caught being academically dishonest
  - Learn how not to be dishonest inadvertently
    - Ignorance of the rules is no excuse

How to avoid academic dishonesty (Cont.)

- Learn how not to plagiarize someone else’s work:
  - Proper internal citations
  - Proper paraphrasing and summarizing
  - Proper quotations
  - Proper citation of reference page
  - Proper representation of information found in an Internet source
How to avoid academic dishonesty (Cont.)

Talk with your instructors
- Find out instructor’s research reporting requirements
- Ask which research documentation style he or she prefers and which edition:
  - APA, MLA, Chicago Manual of Style, CBE: Council of Biology Editors, etc.

Use college resources
- Take library courses to help with research:
  - Library 318: Research and Information Literacy
  - Library 320: Internet Research Skills
  - Library 325: Intro to Internet and Searching Strategies

Find out which documentation style is preferred in your major and learn how to use it
Purchase your own copy of the documentation style manual for your major and check with the publisher’s website for changes and updates
Practice, practice, practice!
How to avoid academic dishonesty (Cont.)

- Read and study the documentation style of journals in your major
- Use those journals as models for your own writing—if it is ok with your instructors

Confidence, Integrity and Satisfaction

- Trust in yourself: You can learn how to avoid academic dishonesty
- Maintain high personal standards
- Know that the fruits of your honest labor will be worth more than the satisfaction of getting over with an instructor