

Do you realize you  
may be risking your  
career?

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Approved by the Faculty of Health, CEAS Committee

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**  
**Faculty of Health, York University**

# CASE

- A student missed an assignment that was worth 5% of course assessment. The student provided a physician's note to the professor in order explain her absence. The professor called the physician's office to verify its legitimacy and discovered that the note was falsified.

**What do you think happened in this case?**

# PENALTY

- The student was charged with ***fabrication*** and received a ***failure*** in the course, permanent grade of record and transcript notation.

**Did you know that you may be criminally charged for falsifying a physician's note?**

## Breaching Academic Honesty

## Examples<sup>1</sup>

Note: Not all breaches of Academic Honesty are included here.  
For additional details visit the Senate policy website  
(<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>)

### Cheating

- Copying other students' exam answers
- Getting the exam questions before it is held
- Changing a mark on the exam
- Using electronic devices or aids that are not approved
- Submitting another student's work as your own
- Submitting same (entire or portion) paper for two different classes without consulting with the professor
- Selling or purchasing papers

### Plagiarism

Presenting someone else's work, including their intellectual property and writing as your own without proper citation

### Impersonation

Using another individual for impersonation in tests, exams and class

### Fabrication & Falsification

Modification of grades, transcript, physician's notes and other academic documents

# CASE

- A student in their 4<sup>th</sup> year submitted a paper, portions were discovered to be from a paper that he submitted in a prior course. The student claimed that he was unaware that students cannot reuse their own paper or portions of their own paper.

**What do you think happened in this case?**

# PENALTY

- This particular student received ***failure*** in the course and permanent grade of record.

# TYPES OF PENALTIES

Lower grade in the course	Depending on the severity of the offence, a student may get lower grade on the course. For instance, you may get a D, rather than a F.
Failure in the course	Your transcript will always have a failed course mark (F).
Permanent grade of record	If you get a penalty of failure in the course, then automatically, you are assigned that grade as a permanent grade of record. The assigned mark is always calculated into your GPA even if the course is repeated.
Notation on transcript	In cases where the offence is severe and/or a second offence, the committee may add notation on the transcript for up to 5 years. This makes it clear for the graduate and professional schools as well as employers that a student has violated academic honesty!
Suspension	In serious offences, a student is suspended for up to 5 years with transcript notation.
Expulsion	For extreme or multiple cases, a student can be removed from the university on a permanent basis.

# What do these penalties mean to you?

- **Permanent failure mark influences your GPA. This means it...**
  - can delay your graduation
  - can lower chances of getting into grad or professional schools
  - can limited employment opportunities

Earning a degree with integrity vs. earning it with dishonesty...what is more satisfying?



# What if you observe a fellow student breaching academic honesty?

- **Report it to your professor!**
  - If you let someone get away with plagiarizing or cheating to attain a better grade, then one day that student could get into medical school, graduate school, and/or get a job because they falsely obtained higher grades. As a result, they might prevent a valid deserving applicant from gaining access to one of these opportunities.
    - Could you trust the treatment a person like this would provide?
    - Would you want to work with or employ that person if they obtained their degree through such means?

# LIFE LONG INTEGRITY?

- CBC reported in 2011 that a Dean of Medicine in a Canadian university plagiarized a part of his convocation speech<sup>2</sup> – should he be fired?
- Business week described in 2013 that many applicants have been discovered to be plagiarizing portions of their letter of intent to business programs.<sup>3</sup> Should they be denied entrance to the program?

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/story/2011/06/13/edmonton-dean-apology-plagiary.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-02-07/dozens-of-mba-applicants-tossed-over-plagiarism>

# LIFE LONG INTEGRITY?

- In January 2013, the Globe and Mail reported on the outcome of different incidences of plagiarism
  - It was found that the Director of the Toronto District School Board had plagiarised parts of his published work including his PhD dissertation. <sup>4</sup>
  - In the hope of gaining a promotion, many federal bureaucrats copied components of their application from the Internet. <sup>5</sup>
- Results? Resignation, embarrassment, rebuke, labelling such as “fraud”, and loss of employment opportunities!

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/education/tdsb-director-resigns-over-plagiarism-phd-dissertation-includes-unattributed-passages/article7167752/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/federal-bureaucrats-busted-for-plagiarism-in-job-applications/article7208671/>

Are you willing to gamble  
your graduation, career and  
reputation over short term  
success?

# **Your Integrity Counts!**

## **Is it worth something to you?**

- **Do not let a weak moment, lack of time management, or ignorance make you regret an action for the rest of your life!**
  - **There are many consequences for dishonesty, not just at university but in the outside world (including employment) as well.**
    - **Taking a short cut will not lead you far in life. Success is only acquired through hard work and determination!**

# RESOURCES

Perplexed about the academic honesty policy? <b>Having a difficult time that is influencing your academic performance?</b>	Before you take the wrong path, speak with your professor and/or TA
Experiencing a difficult circumstance? Need counselling? Need to learn more about learning skills, such as time management?	Visit Counselling and Disability services <a href="http://www.yorku.ca/cds/">http://www.yorku.ca/cds/</a>
Need to know how to manage stress effectively?	Visit Health Education & Promotion <a href="http://www.yorku.ca/scld/healthed/">http://www.yorku.ca/scld/healthed/</a>
Need academic advising?	Make an appointment with advisors in the Office of Student and Academic Services <a href="http://health.info.yorku.ca/current-student-information/">http://health.info.yorku.ca/current-student-information/</a> Make an appointment to speak with your undergraduate program director

# RESOURCES CONTINUED...

Need help with how to conduct research?	Attend workshops, make an appointment, and even chat with a librarian online: <a href="http://www-dev.library.yorku.ca/cms/learning-commons/research-instruction/#appointment">http://www-dev.library.yorku.ca/cms/learning-commons/research-instruction/#appointment</a>
Have a question about, academic integrity or learning skills?	Visit the Learning Commons at Scott Library <a href="http://www.library.yorku.ca/cms/learning-commons/">http://www.library.yorku.ca/cms/learning-commons/</a>
Need help with writing?	-Visit the Writing Centre: <a href="http://www.yorku.ca/laps/writ/centre/">http://www.yorku.ca/laps/writ/centre/</a> -Attend writing skills workshops offered by your College, e.g., <a href="http://stong.yorku.ca/write-to-succeed-63/">http://stong.yorku.ca/write-to-succeed-63/</a> <a href="http://calumet.yorku.ca/academic-services/">http://calumet.yorku.ca/academic-services/</a> -seek out workshops at the Scott Library, e.g., <a href="http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/awg">http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/awg</a>

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Take the Academic Integrity Tutorial at:  
[http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic\\_integrity/](http://www.yorku.ca/tutorial/academic_integrity/)
- Inform yourself about the policies, procedures, and regulations around academic honesty! See:  
[http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69#2.2%20%20%20%20%20%20Summary\\_of\\_Penalties\\_for\\_Academic\\_Misconduct](http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69#2.2%20%20%20%20%20%20Summary_of_Penalties_for_Academic_Misconduct)



# FINAL WORDS

- Ignorance is not an excuse
- Use the *resources available* to you and that you paid for
- Think about your *career and reputation* before you violate academic integrity

“It takes less time to do a right thing, than it does to explain why you did it wrong”

-- *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

“Lose your wealth and you've lost nothing.  
Lose your health and you've lost something.  
Lose your character and you've lost  
everything.”

-- *Ben Lapadula*

# REFERENCES

## Slide 4:

<sup>1</sup> Note: Not all breaches of Academic Honesty are included here. Visit the Senate policy website (<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>) for additional details.

## Slide 10:

<sup>2</sup><http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/story/2011/06/13/edmonton-dean-apology-plagiarism.html>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-02-07/dozens-of-mba-applicants-tossed-over-plagiarism>

## Slide 11:

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/education/tdsb-director-resigns-over-plagiarism-phd-dissertation-includes-unattributed-passages/article7167752/>

<sup>5</sup><http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/federal-bureaucrats-busted-for-plagiarism-in-job-applications/article7208671/>