

Do you realize you
may be risking your
career?

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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

Examples¹

Note: Not all breaches of Academic Honesty are included here.
For additional details visit the [Senate policy website](#)

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 4th 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 speech² – 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. ³ Should they be denied entrance to the program?

¹ [CBC News Edmonton Dean Apology on Plagiary](#)

² [Business Week - MBA 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. ⁴
 - In the hope of gaining a promotion, many federal bureaucrats copied components of their application from the Internet. ⁵
- Results? Resignation, embarrassment, rebuke, labelling such as “fraud”, and loss of employment opportunities!

³ [The Globe and Mail - TDSB Director resigns over plagiarism](#)

⁴ [The Globe and Mail - Federal Bureaucrats busted for plagiarism in job applications](#)

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? Having a difficult time that is influencing your academic performance?	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
Need to know how to manage stress effectively?	Visit Health Education & Promotion
Need academic advising?	Make an appointment with advisors in the Office of Student and Academic Services 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 at Library Ask Services
Have a question about, academic integrity or learning skills?	Visit the Learning Commons at Scott Library
Need help with writing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Visit the Writing Centre:-Attend writing skills workshops offered by your College e.g., -Calumet College Academic Services-seek out workshops at the Scott Library, e.g., http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/awg

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Take the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#)
- Inform yourself about the policies, procedures, and regulations around academic honesty!
See: [Secretariat Policies](#)

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:

¹ Note: Not all breaches of Academic Honesty are included here. Visit the Senate policy website ([Secretariat Policies on Academic Honesty](#)) for additional details.

Slide 10:

² [CBC News – Alberta Dean accused of Plagiarism Apologizes](#)

³ [Bloomberg – Dozens of MBA Applicants Tossed over Plagiarism](#)

Slide 11:

⁴ [The Globe and Mail – TDSB Director Resigns over Plagiarism](#)

⁵ [The Globe and Mail – Federal Bureaucrats Busted for Plagiarism in Job Applications](#)