Academic Integrity

As a student, you are responsible for knowing about, educating yourself, and adhering to appropriate academic conduct to exercise academic integrity. Ignorance cannot be used as an excuse for academic misconduct. This document answers two of the most common questions about academic integrity at the U of S – What key things should I look out for and avoid? and What happens if I am accused of academic misconduct?

What might you be doing wrong?

The following are seven specific examples of what would be considered as cheating or academic misconduct.

- **Working in a group in certain situations:** Take home tests or homework may be assigned as individual work. Unless the professor states that the project can be worked on together, it is considered academic misconduct to work as a group.

- **Self-Plagiarism:** Do you already have an essay from a previous class that would work for an upcoming assignment? Unless you have permission from both of your professors to use the whole, or parts, of the previous essay, this is considered academic misconduct.

- **Fabrication:** If your research data does not turn out as you hoped, do not adjust it. This is considered academic misconduct.

- **Old Labs:** Using another student’s lab report to build your own is considered academic misconduct.

- **Removing a test from an examination room:** Exam papers take instructors a long time to write and for that reason, subsequent exams may be very similar. For this reason, most instructors require all exam papers to be handed in at the end of the exam. It can also be considered misconduct to verbally inform future students of previous exam questions.

- **Plagiarism:** The use of other’s ideas can be allowed, as long as properly cited. All verbatim or paraphrasing use of material from other sources must contain proper attribution.

- **Unprofessional Behavior:** For colleges with clinical placements, professional behavior while on those placements is also considered part of Academic Integrity.
What Happens if You Are Accused of Academic Misconduct?

- If it is an informal complaint, you will be called in to talk to the instructor. There are two disciplinary options the instructor can take:
  - The grade of the assignment is decreased
  - The student is required to re-submit the assignment

- If you decide to challenge the outcome of informal complaint, you must submit an appeal to your College. It would then move through the process of a formal complaint.

- In a formal complaint, you will be required to attend a hearing. If this occurs, contact the University of Saskatchewan Student Union (USSU), VP Academic Affairs. This person will help guide you through the process and help you to understand your rights and responsibilities.

Sustaining Academic Integrity will help you to learn more comprehensively as you work with your own thoughts and ideas. If you need help during writing a paper, you can talk to the Writing Help Centre or any of the librarians. They will help you find reputable sources and assist you in learning how to cite correctly.

Policies and Principles of Student Conduct at the U of S

I. “Regulations on Student Academic Misconduct”

II. “Standard of Student Conduct in Non-Academic Matters and Regulations and Procedures for Resolution of Complaints and Appeals”

U of S: Guiding Principles

1. Freedom of expression
2. Mutual respect and diversity
3. Commitment to non-violence
4. Commitment to justice and fairness
5. Security and safety
6. Integrity

Act with integrity in all that you do!

Source: Office of the University Secretary, Academic Misconduct webpage, accessed Sept, 2018.