



"Somos Semillas, Somos Tenaces.
We are seeds. We are Relentless."

ANAHUACALMECAC

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY PREPARATORY

An International Baccalaureate World School



4736 Huntington Drive South, Los Angeles CA 90032 • (323) 352-3148 •
Email: info@dignidad.org • www.AIUPWorldSchool.org
Semillas Community Schools

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Academic integrity means ***honesty and responsibility in scholarship***. Students and faculty alike must obey rules of honest scholarship, which means that all academic work (Personal Project, summative assessments, tests, class work, presentations, etc.) should result from an ***individual's own efforts***.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. "I didn't mean to" is never an excuse for academic misconduct.

- ***Cheating and unauthorized material on examinations and other assignments***
Unless the teacher specifies otherwise, all examinations and other assignments are to be completed by the student alone, without inappropriate assistance of any kind. For tests, that means no help is to be given to or received from other persons; no books, notes, cell phones, iPods, calculators, or other materials or devices of any kind are to be consulted; and if a calculator or other hand-held electronic device is permitted to be used for mathematical calculations, no other information may be programmed into or retrieved from the device.
- ***Improper collaboration***
Collaboration means working together. Many classes emphasize working with a partner or in groups. Permission from the teacher to "work together" on a homework assignment, project, or paper is not permission to violate the rules of integrity by simply getting the answers from someone else or presenting another student's work as your own. Unless the teacher specifies otherwise, it is assumed that all work submitted for a grade will be the product of the student's own understanding, and thus expressed in the student's own words, calculations, computer code, etc. When a student's work is identical or very similar to someone else's at points where individual variations in expression would be expected, it is reasonable for the teacher to conclude that academic misconduct has occurred.
- ***Submitting the same assignment for different classes***
Submitting the same assignment for a second class violates the assumption that every assignment advances a student's learning and growth. Unless the second instructor expressly allows it, submitting an assignment already submitted for another class is a form of academic misconduct. This is also known as self-plagiarism or recycling work.
- ***Fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc., in order to obtain academic advantage***
It's wrong to lie to an instructor in order to get an excused absence, an extension on a due date, a makeup examination, an Incomplete, admission to a class or program, etc. It's wrong to forge an instructor's signature on any paperwork for academic advantage. It's wrong to falsify transcripts and diplomas. It's wrong to fake data, for example in an assigned lab project, or fabricate quotations or sources for a paper. The person who lies to get out of a difficult situation usually feels that there's nothing personal about it. The person who gets lied to feels differently. All of these actions destroy the institution's integrity and eat away at the expectation of mutual trust among all members of the academic community.
- ***Assisting others in academic misconduct***
Helping someone else cheat is itself an Academic Integrity Code violation. So is providing someone with a paper or homework, or any other form of help, where you know, or reasonably should know that the other student will use it to cheat.
- ***Attempting to commit academic misconduct***
Trying to cheat is academic misconduct, even if the attempt is discovered before it is completed. For example, possession of unauthorized notes in an examination is academic misconduct, even if they have not



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yet been used. Asking others for help in cheating is academic misconduct even if nobody responds and no cheating ultimately occurs.

- *Destruction of property, hacking, etc.*

It is an Academic Integrity Code violation to steal or destroy other students' work if the action will foreseeably lead to an academic advantage for oneself. The same is true for gaining unauthorized access to faculty offices, email accounts, or course management services in order to alter grades, access examinations, or otherwise gain improper academic advantage.

- *Intimidation and interference with integrity processes*

Interfering with the proper functioning of the Academic Integrity Code is also a violation of the Code. For example, it is a violation to threaten or bribe someone to prevent that person from reporting misconduct or testifying in a hearing. It is also a violation to interfere with an Academic Integrity investigation or lie to an investigator or other official. Student Code of Conduct violations may also apply to such conduct. Once the investigation is over, retaliation against someone for reporting misconduct or participating in an investigation or hearing will ordinarily be addressed through the Student Code of Conduct.

- *Plagiarism*

There is basically no assignment that can be satisfactorily completed by copying. It is Semillas' basic assumption that all written assignments show the student's own understanding in the *student's own words*. That means all writing assignments, in class or out, are assumed to be composed entirely of words generated (not simply found) by the student, except where words written by someone else are specifically marked as such with *proper citation*. Including other people's words in your paper is helpful when you do it honestly and correctly. When you don't, it's plagiarism. Plagiarism is the most common form of academic misconduct. Students are encouraged to test their skills in avoiding plagiarism by taking the library's plagiarism tutorial, available at <http://libraries.ou.edu/help/tutorials/academicintegrity/player.html>. Within the academic community and specifically at Semillas Community Schools, the following rules apply:

1. *It is plagiarism to copy words and present them as your own writing.*

It is the worst form of plagiarism to copy part or all of a paper from the Internet, from a book, or from another source without indicating in any way that the words are someone else's. To avoid this form of plagiarism, the paper must BOTH place the quoted material in quotation marks AND use an acceptable form of citation to indicate where the words come from.

2. *It is plagiarism to copy words, even if you give the source, unless you also indicate that the copied words are a direct quotation.*

Simply documenting the source in a footnote or bibliography isn't good enough. You must also indicate that the words themselves are quoted from someone else. To avoid this form of plagiarism, put all quoted words in quotation marks or use equivalent punctuation.

3. *It is plagiarism to copy words and then change them a little, even if you give the source.*

Putting someone else's ideas into your own words so it's not a direct quotation is called "paraphrasing." Paraphrasing is fine when you cite the source and indicate the new expression is actually your own. When it's not -- when the expression remains substantially similar to the source as a whole or in one of its parts -- it's plagiarism. Even if not specifically prohibited by the instructor, "writing" a paper by copying words and then altering them violates Semillas' basic assumption about writing and may easily result in a charge of academic misconduct. To count as "your own words," your paper must be so significantly different from your sources that a reasonable reader would consider it a new piece of writing. If it's not -- if "your writing" is substantially similar to somebody else's where individual variations would be expected, it's plagiarism.



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4. *Even if you express them in your own words, it is plagiarism to present someone else's ideas as your own.*

It is plagiarism to present someone else's original arguments, lines of reasoning, or factual discoveries as your own, even if you put the material in your own words. To avoid this form of plagiarism, cite the source.

5. *The rules against plagiarism apply to all assignments.*

Take-home tests, comprehensive examinations, "review of the literature" sections of theses or dissertations, and all other assignments are subject to these rules. There is basically no assignment that can be satisfactorily completed by copying.

Monitoring Process and Consequences

If plagiarism is suspected, teachers will rely upon software to detect and confirm any incident of plagiarism.

Plagiarism and other violations of the Academic Integrity Policy will be subject to the following:

First Offense: 1) Assignment is to be redone within 24 hours, 2) the work should be graded according to the rubric and student work is to be grade according to their performance, 3) a parent meeting will be scheduled with parent, student, teacher and counselor with the goal of the student to understand the importance of not plagiarizing in our school and in college. The counselor will explain to student and parent that a student can be dismissed from high school or a university.

Second Offense: If student had already been given an opportunity to re-do their work due to plagiarizing in the past, then the student would earn an automatic "F" that would be recorded in their record. Parent will be notified and referral to for disciplinary action will be made.

Refer to Anahuacalmecac's Parent Student Handbook for further information on all school policies related to expectations of student conduct. Additionally, teachers will provide further verbal and written clarification regarding the school's Academic Integrity Policy as well as resources for on and off line tools to assist students with proper citation rules and to aide in the identification of plagiarism. Students are always encouraged to seek guidance from any of their teachers for further explanation or clarification as needed.