Academic Misconduct: A Faculty Perspective

NIU Teaching Effectiveness Institute
August 11, 2016

Terry Bishop
Management Department
What IS Academic Misconduct?

What is academic misconduct?

The receipt or transmission of unauthorized aid on assignments or examinations, plagiarism, unauthorized use of examination materials, cheating or other forms of dishonesty in academic matters. The term “cheating” includes but is not limited to the following:

- Use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations or on academic assignments;
- Use of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems or carrying out other assignments;
- Acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the university faculty or staff;
- Engagement in any behavior specifically prohibited by a faculty member in the course syllabus or class discussion;

From The NIU Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct
http://www.niu.edu/conduct/academic-misconduct/index.shtml
Managing Academic Integrity: Where the “Rubber Hits the Road”

- Do students really cheat?
- If so, should we do anything about it? Is it part of our job?
Academic Integrity: Why is it Critical at a University?

- Learning is circumvented by violations of academic integrity
- Violations of academic integrity erode the value of the degrees earned at an institution and decrease public trust and confidence
- Professionalism and responsibility are key elements of a university education
Managing Academic Integrity: A Critical Faculty Role

- We ARE the “front-line”
- We exercise operational control over conditions and circumstances that either contribute to, or deter academic misconduct
6 Steps to Academic Integrity

1. Clear policies – syllabus
   - Establish expectations

2. Clear guidelines for assignments
   - writing assignments & projects
   - group work
   - examinations

3. Prevention
   - multiple forms of tests
   - specific requirements for papers and projects - avoid the ‘standard’ assignment
6 Steps to Academic Integrity

4. Separation and supervision during exams

5. Investigating suspicions of academic dishonesty
   - gather information, document
   - keep old papers, etc.
   - interview suspected students

6. Consult with Student Conduct
   (in any phase of dealing with academic dishonesty)
Web Resources on Academic Integrity

- **NIU Student Conduct Code**

- **International Center for Academic Integrity**
  - [http://www.academicintegrity.org/](http://www.academicintegrity.org/)
Discussion/Questions