

▶ Student Life

Student Life > Honor Code >

Honor Code

Plagiarism
Community standards
Technology acceptable use
Off-campus behavior
College Hearing Board & judicial procedures

Office of Student Life

Residential Life
Student Activities
Marshall
Multicultural Center

New Student Orientation

Boston/Providence Connection

GATRA

College events calendar

Student Government & Clubs

Counseling Center

Student Health Services

Dining

Employment

Athletics

Dean of Students

Student Life home

Honor Code and Statement on Plagiarism

Wheaton accepts and encourages individuality while also affirming the community dimensions of college life. The Honor Code describes each individual's responsibility as a member of the Wheaton community:

As members of the Wheaton community, we commit ourselves to act honestly, responsibly, and above all, with honor and integrity in all areas of campus life. We are accountable for all that we say and write. We are responsible for the academic integrity of our work. We pledge that we will not misrepresent our work nor give or receive unauthorized aid. We commit ourselves to behave in a manner which demonstrates concern for the personal dignity, rights and freedoms of all members of the community. We are respectful of college property and the property of others. We will not tolerate a lack of respect for these values.

I accept responsibility to maintain the Honor Code at all times.

A student's continuing enrollment at Wheaton is contingent upon the student's willingness to uphold and live within the Honor Code.

At the March 7, 2003, faculty meeting, Wheaton faculty approved the following resolution: *For all course work, students will write and sign the following: "I have abided by the Wheaton College Honor Code in this work."*

There are specific requirements of academic and social integrity that are to be followed by community members. The College Hearing Board is the vehicle that is used to maintain the education, application, and protection of these standards set forth by the Honor Code.

Students who have violated the requirements of the Honor Code, or who have reason to believe that others have violated the academic or social provisions of the code, should report themselves, confront others and encourage them to report themselves, or report violations or alleged violations either to the chair of the College Hearing Board or to the dean of students.

Honor Code history

The honor system for social responsibility at Wheaton was established in 1921 to replace the demerit system that Wheaton had practiced since its founding in 1834. In 1925, the honor system expanded to encompass all academic work. This was the beginning of a self-governance system at Wheaton that required not only academic and social integrity of students but the responsibility of all community members to uphold the honor system. Over the past decades, the Honor Code has evolved to meet the changing needs of students and this institution, but it has continued to maintain unquestionable integrity and purpose. For a complete set of guidelines, please refer to the Student Government Constitution.

Academic responsibility

The rights and responsibilities that accompany academic freedom are at the heart of the intellectual integrity of the college. Academic integrity requires that all work for which students receive credit be entirely the result of their own effort. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form. Examinations at Wheaton are not proctored. All students are responsible for the integrity of their examination papers and for the integrity of the work of others taking examinations.

Statement on plagiarism

The long history of the Honor Code at Wheaton College is indicative of the uniqueness of its faculty and students who have worked hard to maintain high standards of academic integrity. In order to ensure that these standards are upheld, we must remind ourselves of the academic responsibilities that we all inherit as members of the Wheaton community.

We should all be aware that we are part of a wider community of scholars, and it is the exchange of ideas, information, concepts and data that make the advancement of knowledge possible. However, just as we expect others to acknowledge the ideas that we have worked hard to develop, so we must also be careful to recognize the people from whom we borrow ideas.

There are several reasons why we should acknowledge our borrowing from the work of others. We do this certainly to show our gratitude, but also in order to provide our readers with the opportunity to consult our sources if they wish to review the evidence, consider other interpretations, or determine the basis for the cited material. Moreover, we can determine the author's own originality and insight only in the context of appropriately identified sources. The citation of relevant background material is also evidence that the author has tried to become familiar with the views developed by others in the field.

Plagiarism (from the Latin for "kidnapper") in its most general form is the taking of ideas from another and passing them off as one's own. Authors who fail to acknowledge their sources are, at the very least, guilty of being ignorant about the ethics governing the wider community of scholars; at the worst, they are guilty of blatant dishonesty. In any case, plagiarism in any form constitutes a serious violation of the most basic principles of scholarship, and cannot be tolerated.

Plagiarism can take many forms, from the inadvertent passing off as one's own work of another due to ignorance or carelessness, to the hiring of someone else to write a paper or take an examination. The following examples serve to illustrate the most common forms of plagiarism.

1. Submitting papers, examinations or assignments written by others is perhaps the most blatant form of plagiarism.
2. Word-for-word copying of portions of another's writing without enclosing the copied passage in quotation marks and acknowledging the source in the appropriate scholarly convention is equally unacceptable.
3. The use of a particularly unique term or concept that one has come across in reading without acknowledging the author or source, while less blatant, is also a form of plagiarism.
4. The paraphrasing or abbreviated restatement of someone else's ideas without acknowledging that another person's text has been the basis for the paraphrasing is a form of academic dishonesty.
5. False citation: Material should not be attributed to a source from which it has not been obtained.
6. False data: Data that has been fabricated or altered in a laboratory or experiment, although not literally plagiarism, is clearly a form of academic fraud.
7. Unacknowledged multiple submission of a paper for several purposes without prior approval from the parties involved is a violation of the ethics of scholarship.
8. Unacknowledged multiple authors or collaboration: while collaboration is entirely appropriate in many instances, the contributions of each author or collaborator should be made clear. In cases where collaboration is not permitted, such collaboration is a form of academic fraud.

While students have the responsibility of avoiding any form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty, it is the task of the faculty to clarify for students what these responsibilities are. Although the most general forms of plagiarism are clear, Wheaton recognizes that the precise manner in which these guidelines are implemented may vary across disciplines. For this reason, it is extremely important that individual faculty members and departments make explicit what their expectations are about academic honesty and integrity. Faculty members also have the responsibility of making use of the Honor Code procedures and reporting violations of these when it is

necessary to do so. When both students and faculty recognize their respective responsibilities and have a shared understanding of them, we can ensure that our system of academic values is upheld consistently and equitably.

Respect for intellectual labor and creativity is vital to academic discourse and enterprise. This principle applies to works of all authors and publishers in all media. It encompasses respect for the right to acknowledgement, right to privacy and right to determine the form, manner and terms of publication and distribution.

Because electronic information is volatile and easily reproduced, respect for the work and personal expression of others is especially critical in computer environments. Violations of authorial integrity, including plagiarism, invasion of privacy, unauthorized access, and trade secret and copyright violations, may be grounds for sanctions against members of the academic community.

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