

act with honesty: cheating



Presented by:

Jackie Stapleton
Liaison Librarian
University of Waterloo Library



university of waterloo · academic integrity · www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/gradail

Hello. My name is Jackie Stapleton, liaison librarian at the University of Waterloo. This video will discuss various forms of cheating and the penalties associated with academic misconduct.



During your graduate studies, you are asked to uphold the values of academic integrity, both in your research practice and scholarship activities.

While trying to uphold these values, the realities of your everyday life can lead to stress and a feeling of being overwhelmed.

You may find yourself battling the temptation to cheat in order to succeed.

acts of cheating

- unauthorized aids (cheat sheets)
- improper communication
- impersonation
- obtaining, distributing or receiving confidential materials
- resubmitting altered test or exam work after it has been evaluated



university of waterloo · academic integrity · www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/gradail



- Bringing a cheat sheet or whispering to a neighbour, having someone impersonate you during a test are all obvious forms of cheating.
- Making a copy of a test, studying from past exams which have been circulated without the instructor's knowledge, or obtaining the test questions from someone who has already taken the test is cheating.
- Revising or editing a test or assignment after it has been marked and then resubmitting it for remarking is cheating.

These behaviours degrade the quality of scholarly pursuit at the University of Waterloo.

Scenario: Mary's cheat sheet

Mary is a masters student juggling coursework, research for her thesis and taking care of her family at home. Due to an illness, Mary has to miss a full week of classes and has no time to study for her midterm.

During the midterm, Mary is caught with a cheat sheet.

The instructor reports the incident to the Associate Dean. This is Mary's first offense of academic misconduct. After deliberation, the Associate Dean and the instructor decide that Mary will receive a 0 on the midterm and she will lose an additional 5 % off her course grade.

A record of this action is added to Mary's discipline record.



Scenario: Mary's Cheat Sheet

Mary is a master's student juggling with coursework, research for her thesis and taking care of her family at home. Due to an illness, Mary has to miss a full week of classes and has no time to study for her midterm.

During the midterm, Mary is caught with a cheat sheet.

The instructor reports the incident to the Associate Dean. This is Mary's first offense of academic misconduct. After deliberation, the Associate Dean and the instructor decide that Mary will receive a 0 on the midterm and she will lose an additional 5% off her course grade.

A record of this action is added to Mary's discipline record.

what **should** Mary have done?

talk to the instructor!

a **simple discussion** will avoid potential problems
it is **too late** after the misconduct



university of waterloo · academic integrity · www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/gradait



Mary should have explained the situation to her instructor. If you are feeling overwhelmed or find yourself in a difficult situation, do not assume that your instructor won't be sympathetic.

A simple discussion can avoid potential problems however it is too late to have this conversation after the misconduct has occurred.

penalties

failure of the course

suspension

- all university privileges including office, funding, computer account and library services
- leave university housing
- loss of scholarship
- No TA support that term

expulsion

- remains permanently on transcript



university of waterloo · academic integrity · www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/gradait



In addition to losing marks, more serious forms of cheating or repeated misconduct may justify more serious penalties including:

- Failure of the course
- A 1-3 term suspension which can be devastating and can include loss of university privileges such as:
 - office space
 - funding
 - computing and library accounts
 - university housing, scholarships and ta support
- And finally expulsion. You may be asked to leave the program after which the expulsion remains permanently on your transcript

It is important that you are aware of these serious consequences to academic misconduct.

tips to **avoid cheating**

- time management
- clarify expectations with instructor
- if you don't understand the material, ask questions before exam
- do not sit next to a friend or group member and keep belongings out of sight
- do not talk to anyone during the test or the take home exam period
- if you wish to resubmit your exam/test, do not alter the original answers



university of waterloo · academic integrity · www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/gradait



These tips will help you to avoid the temptation to cheat:

- Time management is important to balance all of the things competing for your time.
- Clarify any course material or questions you may have before the test or exam.
- In order to avoid even the impression of cheating, do not talk or sit next to a friend while writing a test.
- And finally, if you wish to resubmit or discuss your exam or test questions, do not alter the original answers.

ask yourself...

If you decide to cheat, **who** is affected?

Is cheating **worth** the risk?



university of waterloo · academic integrity · www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/gradait



I'll leave you with these questions for self-reflection.

If you decide to cheat, who is affected? Is cheating worth the risk?

Contemplate your response as cheating affects all the people around you and the risks are high.