International Students and Academic Integrity

Cross Cultural Considerations in Student Conduct

• Plagiarism:
  o The act of presenting another’s works or ideas as your own.
    ▪ Instances of plagiarism among international students are on the rise.

• Plagiarism and Non-Western Cultures
  o Non-Western cultures view knowledge as a shared property
  o Form of respect
    ▪ International students often do not feel that they can enhance the writing
      and ideas of someone who is an authority on a specific subject.
  o Memorization
    ▪ It is seen as a form of respect to the original author.
    ▪ Students who recite information verbatim usually receive higher grades.

• Plagiarism and Cheating
  o Different teaching and learning style
    ▪ Many Asian countries view their sources with the utmost respect, but are
      not taught to cite them.
    ▪ Opinions and open discussions are encouraged in Western classrooms,
      while the professor in Asian countries is believed to be the authority on
      subject matter.
    ▪ In Asian, Chinese, and Greek schools, tests often require students to write
      exactly what was expressed in the textbook and Professor’s notes.
  o Not familiar with procedures and policies
    ▪ International students are not aware of the policies and regulations we
      have in place in regards to academic honesty in the United States.
    ▪ Views on plagiarism and cheating are influenced largely by history and
      culture.
  o Limited experience with extended writing
    ▪ Some international students do not have experience writing long research
      papers that require critical thinking and personal opinions.
  o Language barrier
    ▪ It takes a considerable amount of time to read something while also
      translating it into English.
    ▪ It also takes longer for an individual to write if English is their second
      language.
Some students believe that there are only a few ways you can say something.
  - Enormous pressure to be successful
    - Potential loss of visa
    - Good grades=better job
  - Belief that original text cannot be enhanced
    - Many international students view paraphrasing as changing the reality of the idea or writing.

**Views on Plagiarism**
  - Studies have shown that in all cultures many students believe that copying a small amount of someone else’s work is not considered plagiarism.
  - Studies have shown that many Asian students view writing a paper for someone else as not plagiarizing.

**Academic Honesty at Minnesota State University, Mankato**
  - Plagiarism is defined as:
    - Submission of an academic assignment as one’s work, which includes critical ideas or written narrative that are taken from another author without the proper citation. This applies both to direct quotes and to critical ideas paraphrased by the student.
      - Submitting the work of others as your own.
      - Submitting others’ work as your own with only minor changes.
      - Submitting others’ work as your own without adequate footnotes, quotations, and other reference forms
      - Multiple submission of the same work, written or oral, for more than one course without both instructor’s permission, or making minor revisions on work which has received credit and submitting it again as new work.
  - Cheating is defined as:
    - Use of unauthorized material or assistance to help fulfill academic assignments. This material could include unauthorized copies of test materials, calculators, electronics, crib sheets, and help from another student.
  - Collusion is defined as:
    - Assistance to another student or among students committing the act of cheating or plagiarism.
• Recourses
  o Talk to your professor
    ▪ They are there to help and want you to succeed.
  o Visit the Center for Academic Success
    ▪ Memorial Library ML125
    ▪ Phone: 507-389-1791
  o Don’t procrastinate
Sources


McCabe, Donald. *Cheating among college and university students: A North American perspective*.


[http://www.mnsu.edu/policies/approved/academichonesty.pdf](http://www.mnsu.edu/policies/approved/academichonesty.pdf)