

Policy Consultation and Approval Process

Summary of Comments Received during the Informal Review Phase

Academic Honesty

(Policy Title)

A. Individual Comments

No individual comments were received.

B. Group Comments (Note: some comments may also have been submitted as individual comments above)

MSSA

--MSSA notes in purple

--added text in red

--deleted text in gray

*accepted all changes of proposed document and added others

As members of this University community, students assume the responsibility to fulfill their academic obligations in a fair and honest manner. This responsibility includes avoiding such inappropriate activities such as plagiarism, cheating or collusion. Students found responsible for one or more of these activities may face both academic sanctions (such as lowering a grade, failing of a course, etc.) and disciplinary sanctions (such as probation, suspension, expulsion).

It is the intent of Minnesota State University, Mankato to encourage a sense of integrity on the part of students in fulfilling their academic requirements. To give students a better understanding of behaviors that may constitute academic dishonesty, the following definitions are provided.

Plagiarism: Submission of an academic assignment as one's own work, which includes critical ideas or written narrative that are taken from another author without the proper citation. This does not apply only both to direct quotes, but also and to critical ideas that are paraphrased by the student. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. submitting the work of others as your own
2. submitting others' work as your own with only minor changes
3. submitting others' work as your own without adequate footnotes, quotations, and other reference forms
4. 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: Use of unauthorized material or assistance to help fulfill academic assignments. This material could include unauthorized copies of test materials, calculators, electronics, crib sheets, help from another student, etc.

Collusion: Assistance to another student or among students in committing the act of cheating or plagiarism.

Procedures

Minnesota State University, Mankato's statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy offers additional information regarding procedures for addressing academic integrity.

The Office of Student Conduct provides the procedural structure supporting the academic integrity policy.

A referral regarding academic integrity can be made by contacting the Office of Student Conduct.

Rationale

In order for an academic community to teach and support appropriate educational values, an environment of trust, cooperation and personal responsibility must be maintained.

UCAP Sub-Meet

There was considerable discussion about this proposed policy revision. Members felt that the policy lacks depth and clarity in regard to consequences bestowed upon students who violate the policy. The difficulty of adding sanctions to the policy to give it strength and enforcement potential were discussed. In addition some terms (e.g., collusion) used in the policy need further definition and explanation to make them useful in administering the policy. In the end, members felt that this policy was better than no policy at all, but that it should be viewed as a small step toward implementation of the recommendations for a revised policy found in the attached report from the university's Academic Honesty Policy Working Group Report.