



Graduate Student Academic Integrity Policy

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 Graduate students are key members of the St. Mary's community and are expected to commit to the highest standards of integrity in their academic practices. They have an ethical and moral obligation to produce their own research, express their own ideas, and attribute other scholars' research correctly and consistently.

2. OVERVIEW

- 2.1 This policy details what constitutes breaches of academic integrity and the penalties for such misconduct. All penalties for academic misconduct may be appealed, according to the Graduate Student Academic Appeals Policy.

3. DEFINITIONS

Graduate Student means any person who is registered in a graduate course, program, or degree at St. Mary's University.

University means St. Mary's University.

4. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

- 4.1 Graduate Students at the University are expected to be honest and act with integrity. The goal of academic work is to facilitate learning and assigned grades are meant to reflect the level at which this goal is attained. To assess an individual's learning, all academic work and resulting grades should be based upon the student's demonstration of their understanding. Acting with integrity in an academic environment means that the student completes their own work and cites the works of others used in their research as well as ideas and/or excerpts from the work of others included in their academic work. Academic integrity also refers to students taking responsibility for their actions, learning from their mistakes, and being accountable for the academic work they submit.

Approval Authority	Responsible Office	Effective Date	Date Last Revisited	Review Frequency
Academic Council	Academic	Dec 2, 2024	N/A	Every 5 years

5. DEFINITION OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

5.1 At St. Mary's University academic misconduct includes the following:

- a) cheating on examinations;
- b) plagiarism (a student using others' ideas in their work without acknowledgement);
- c) giving false information to university personnel to gain an academic advantage;
- d) purchasing, or downloading, an assignment from the Internet or another source;
- e) writing an examination on behalf of another student;
- f) fabrication, falsification, and destruction of research records;
- g) invalid authorship;
- h) unauthorized/undisclosed use of AI in the production of academic work;
- i) failure to declare conflict of interest.

Such forms of academic misconduct are unacceptable at the University and are subject to penalties. Students have the right to appeal as outlined in the Graduate Student Academic Appeals Policy.

6. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

6.1 Penalties for a first occurrence of academic misconduct may include a failing grade on the examination, assignment and/ or lab and/or a failing grade in the course as determined by the course instructor. The instructor will immediately send a letter stating the particulars of the offence to the Registrar and a notation will be placed in the student's permanent file.

In the event of a subsequent occurrence of academic misconduct in any course during the student's academic tenure at St. Mary's University, the Dean will decide on appropriate disciplinary action, which may include possible expulsion from St. Mary's University. If a student is expelled, the reason for expulsion will be stated on the student's permanent academic record. All correspondence regarding acts of academic misconduct by a student will be copied to the student.

RELATED POLICIES

- 2.CC-2023: Responsible Use of Research Funds
- 2.G-2006: Integrity in Research and Scholarship

St. Mary's University: Graduate Student Academic Integrity Policy

- 2.H-2006: Research and Conflict of Interest Policy
- New Policy: Intellectual Property
- New Policy: Copyright