

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Southwestern Community College District recognizes that academic integrity is essential in promoting student success and maintaining rigor in instructional programs. It is a quintessential part of any substantive educational experience. Honesty and integrity in one's academic life establish life-long patterns of behavior that are fundamental to quality of character and good citizenship. Personal integrity must be developed in each individual and as such should be encouraged in every aspect of a student's experience at Southwestern College.

Southwestern College is a community of scholars and learners, committed to the principles of honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, and respect for the academy. Students share with faculty and staff the responsibility for promoting a climate of integrity. As members of this community, students are expected to adhere to these fundamental values at all times in their academic endeavors.

Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, lying, stealing, submitting others' work as one's own, or permitting anyone else to do the same. The faculty should make their students aware of specific expectations related to academic integrity in every class and should define academic integrity within the context of the course. The faculty are encouraged to provide pertinent examples of plagiarism, cheating and other violations.

It is necessary that all faculty members require their students to conduct themselves with integrity and honor, and when violations of academic integrity occur, faculty members must address the violations quickly, judiciously, and fairly. They should document all incidents including any informal sanctions with their School Dean. It is the prerogative of the faculty member whether to pursue formal sanctions related to violations of academic integrity. Formal sanctions shall be addressed through appropriate Student Conduct Standards and Discipline procedures (District Policy 6047).

Until such a time as a Southwestern College Honor Code is implemented, the final arbiter of formal sanctions related to academic integrity shall be a Grievance and Order hearing chaired by a tenured professor.

[Parts of this policy are adapted from the Duke University "Community Standard" and from Prof. Bill Taylor, Oakton Community College, Des Plains, Illinois, with permission.]