

## Maintaining Assessment Integrity

Academic integrity is an issue in both face-to-face and online learning environments. Concerns may include, but are not limited to:

**Plagiarism** occurs when a student presents another person's work as his or her own, whether meaning to or not (i.e. copying parts of or whole papers off the Internet).

**Collusion** occurs when a student lends his or her work to another person to submit as his or her own. Fabrication occurs when a student deliberately creates false information on a reference list.

As instructors, we are challenged to find or develop effective practices for preventing academic dishonesty and to inform our students about the consequences of compromising their academic integrity. Faculty must establish clear policies, use technology effectively, and serve as ethical role models.

### Establishing Policy

A clear policy statement in your syllabus is necessary. Not only will it define academic dishonesty for your students, but it should also alert them to consequences. Here is one example:

"Academic Dishonesty is NEVER tolerated by UTEP or the Department of \_\_\_\_\_. All suspected cases are reported to the Dean of Students for Academic Sanctions. These sanctions may include expulsion. All work submitted must be original; students may not submit graded work from another course. Forms of academic dishonesty include: Collusion— lending your work to another person to submit as his or her own; Fabrication—deliberately creating false information on a works cited page, and Plagiarism— the presentation of another person's work as your own, whether you mean to or not (i.e. copying parts of or whole papers off the Internet). See the Dean of Students website at <http://www.utep.edu/dos/acadintg.htm> for more information."



Students also need be well aware of the copyright and fair use requirements in your class, and of course, for the university. A clear policy statement in your syllabus can help clarify this for them as well. For example:

"The University requires all members of its community to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies."

### Helpful Tools

Several software programs, such as SafeAssign and Turnitin, are available to instructors. Many of these work by checking students' submissions against content in its database (which includes student work as well as articles, webpages, and books).