

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL: USF REGULATIONS

NOTICE: PROPOSED NEW REGULATION

DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2008

Regulation No: 3.027	Title: Academic Integrity of Students
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Summary:

The Florida Board of Governors Regulation Development Procedure requires a university to monitor the effects of new regulations and periodically review existing regulations to ensure they are current and consistent. The University of South Florida currently has one regulation, 3.0015 to address academic dishonesty and academic disruption.

However, the University has determined that two separate regulations are necessary to more effectively define, administer and enforce these two separate academic processes. The procedures for each violation must be managed separately to set guidelines that clearly state the expectations and intentions of the University, faculty and students.

Therefore, regulation 3.027, *Academic Integrity of Students* is proposed to set forth academic standards of honesty and integrity at the University and define and clarify what constitutes a violation of academic honesty and integrity and the recommended sanctions.

The proposed regulation has been reviewed and approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the Graduate and Undergraduate Councils, the Academic Affairs Management Council and the Academic Integrity Committee.

Upon adoption of Regulation 3.027, the University will repeal Regulation 3.0015.

(End of Summary)

AUTHORITY TO ADOPT/AMEND/REPEAL: Art. IX, Fla. Constitution and Resolutions issued by the FL Board of Governors.

UNIVERSITY OFFICIAL INITIATING PROPOSED REGULATIONS: Dr. Ralph Wilcox, Provost and Sr. V.P.

WRITTEN COMMENTS CONCERNING THIS PROPOSED REGULATION MAY BE SUBMITTED WITHIN 14 DAYS AFTER THE POSTING DATE OF THIS NOTICE TO:

Dee Brown, Agency Clerk
Office of the General Counsel
University of South Florida System
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Tampa, FL 33620-6250
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[Proposed Regulation 3.027:](#)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY OF STUDENTS

(1) Fundamental principles:

Academic integrity is the foundation of the University of South Florida's (University/USF) commitment to the academic honesty and personal integrity of its University community. Academic integrity is grounded in certain fundamental values, which include honesty, respect and fairness. Broadly defined, academic honesty is the completion of all academic endeavors and claims of scholarly knowledge as representative of one's own efforts. Knowledge and maintenance of the academic standards of honesty and integrity as set forth by the University are the responsibility of the entire academic community, including the instructional faculty, staff and students.

(2) General Policies:

The following policies and procedures apply to all students, instructional faculty and staff who participate in administration of academic classes, programs and research at the University of South Florida. This regulation asserts fairness in that it requires notice to any student accused of a violation of academic integrity and provides a directive for discussion between the instructor and student to seek a fair and equitable resolution. If a fair resolution is not accomplished in this discussion, this regulation allows the student continued rights of due process under the academic grievance procedures based upon the preponderance of the evidence. The policies described below are the only policies

and procedures that govern violations of academic integrity at the University and supersede any previous policies or regulations.

(3) Violations of Academic Integrity: Undergraduate and Graduate

Behaviors that violate academic integrity are listed below, and are not intended to be all inclusive.

(a) Cheating

Definition: *Cheating* is using or attempting to use materials, information, notes, study aids, or other assistance in any type of examination or evaluation which have not been authorized by the instructor.

Clarification:

1. Students completing any type of examination or evaluation are prohibited from looking at or transmitting materials to another student (including electronic reproductions and transmissions) and from using external aids of any sort (e.g., books, notes, calculators, photographic images or conversation with others) unless the instructor has indicated specifically in advance that this will be allowed.
2. Students may not take examinations or evaluations in the place of other persons. Students may not allow other persons to take examinations or evaluations in their places.
3. Students may not acquire unauthorized information about an examination or evaluation and may not use any such information improperly acquired by others.
4. Instructors, programs and departments may establish, with the approval of the colleges, additional rules for exam environments and behavior. Such rules must be announced in advance in a course syllabus or other advance written notice to students.

(b) Plagiarism

Definition: *Plagiarism* is intentionally or carelessly presenting the work of another as one's own. It includes submitting an assignment purporting to be the student's original work which has wholly or in part been created by another person. It also includes the presentation of the work, ideas, representations, or words of another person without

customary and proper acknowledgement of sources. Students must consult with their instructors for clarification in any situation in which the need for documentation is an issue, and will have plagiarized in any situation in which their work is not properly documented.

Clarification:

1. Every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and must be properly acknowledged by parenthetical citation in the text or in a footnote or endnote.
2. When material from another source is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part in one's own words, that source must be acknowledged in a footnote or endnote, or by parenthetical citation in the text.
3. Information gained in reading or research that is not common professional knowledge must be acknowledged in a parenthetical citation in the text or in a footnote or endnote.
4. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, the use of papers, reports, projects, and other such materials prepared by someone else.

(c) Fabrication, Forgery and Obstruction

Definitions: *Fabrication* is the use of invented, counterfeited, altered or forged information in assignments of any type including those activities done in conjunction with academic courses that require students to be involved in out-of-classroom experiences.

Forgery is the imitating or counterfeiting of images, documents, signatures, and the like.

Obstruction is any behavior that limits the academic opportunities of other students by improperly impeding their work or their access to educational resources.

Clarification:

1. Fabricated or forged information may not be used in any laboratory experiment, report of research, or academic exercise. Invention for artistic purposes is legitimate under circumstances explicitly authorized by an instructor.

2. Students may not furnish to instructors fabricated or forged explanations of absences or of other aspects of their performance and behavior.

3. Students may not furnish, or attempt to furnish, fabricated, forged or misleading information to University officials on University records, or on records of agencies in which students are fulfilling academic assignments.

4. Students may not steal, change, or destroy another student's work. Students may not impede the work of others by the theft, defacement, mutilation or obstruction of resources so as to deprive others of their use.

5. Obstruction does not include the content of statements or arguments that are germane to a class or other educational activity.

(d) Multiple Submissions

Definition: *Multiple submissions* are the submissions of the same or substantially the same work for credit in two or more courses. Multiple submissions shall include the use of any prior academic effort previously submitted for academic credit at this or a different institution. Multiple submissions shall not include those situations where the prior written approval by the instructor in the current course is given to the student to use a prior academic work or endeavor.

Clarification:

1. Students may not normally submit any academic assignment, work, or endeavor in more than one course for academic credit of any sort. This will apply to submissions of the same or substantially the same work in the same semester or in different semesters.

2. Students may not normally submit the same or substantially the same work in two different classes for academic credit even if the work is being graded on different bases in the separate courses (e.g., graded for research effort and content versus grammar and spelling).

3. Students may resubmit a prior academic endeavor if there is substantial new work, research, or other appropriate additional effort. The student shall disclose the use of the prior work to the instructor and receive the instructor's permission to use it PRIOR to the submission of the current endeavor.

4. Students may submit the same or substantially the same work in two or more courses with the prior written permission of all faculty involved. Instructors will specify the expected academic effort applicable to their courses and the overall endeavor shall reflect the same or additional academic effort as if separate assignments were submitted in each course. Failure by the student to obtain the written permission of each instructor shall be considered a multiple submission.

(e) Complicity

Definition: *Complicity* is assisting or attempting to assist another person in any act of academic dishonesty.

Clarification:

1. Students may not allow other students to copy from their papers during any type of examination.
2. Students may not assist other students in acts of academic dishonesty by providing material of any kind that one may have reason to believe will be misrepresented to an instructor or other University official.
3. Students may not provide substantive information about test questions or the material to be tested before a scheduled examination unless they have been specifically authorized to do so by the course instructor. This does not apply to examinations that have been administered and returned to students in previous semesters.

(f) Misconduct in Research and Creative Endeavors

Definition: *Misconduct in research* is serious deviation from the accepted professional practices within a discipline or from the policies of the University in carrying out, reporting, or exhibiting the results of research or in publishing, exhibiting, or performing creative endeavors. It includes the fabrication or falsification of data, plagiarism, and scientific or creative misrepresentation. It does not include honest error or honest disagreement about the interpretation of data.

Clarification:

1. Students may not invent or counterfeit information.

2. Students may not report results dishonestly, whether by altering data, by improperly revising data, by selective reporting or analysis of data, or by being grossly negligent in the collecting or analysis of data.
3. Students may not represent another person's ideas, writing or data as their own.
4. Students may not appropriate or release the ideas or data of others when such data have been shared in the expectation of confidentiality.
5. Students may not publish, exhibit, or perform work in circumstances that will mislead others. They may not misrepresent the nature of the material or its originality, and they may not add or delete the names of authors without permission.
6. Students must adhere to all federal, state, municipal, and University regulations or policies for the protection of human and other animal subjects.
7. Students may not conceal or otherwise fail to report any misconduct involving research, professional conduct, or artistic performance of which they have knowledge.
8. Students must abide by the University's policies on Misconduct in Research where applicable, which can be found in the University's Policies and Procedures Manual at the General Counsel's website.

(g) Computer Misuse

Definition: *Misuse of computers* includes unethical, or illegal use of the computers of any person, institution or agency in which students are performing part of their academic program.

Clarification:

1. Students may not use the University computer system in support of any act of plagiarism.
2. Students may not monitor or tamper with another person's electronic communications.

(h) Misuse of Intellectual Property

Definition: *Misuse of intellectual property* is the illegal use of copyright materials, trademarks, trade secrets or intellectual properties.

Clarification:

Students may not violate state or federal laws concerning the fair use of copies.

(4) Violations and Sanctions for Undergraduate Students^[1]

Violations for undergraduate students at the University of South Florida are classified into four levels according to the nature of the infraction. For each level of violation a corresponding set of sanctions is recommended, however, specific academic programs may include additional and different sanctions. These sanctions are intended as general guidelines for the academic community with examples cited below for each level of violation. These examples are not to be considered all-inclusive.

It is recommended that the instructor forward a concise written statement describing the academic dishonesty of an incident with its particulars to the Undergraduate Dean's Office for violations in Levels Two through Four. These records will be maintained until graduation or until they are of no further administrative value. This will enable better handling of multiple violations.

(a) Level One Violations

Level One violations may occur because of inexperience or lack of knowledge of principles of academic integrity on the part of persons committing the violation. These violations address incidents when intent is questionable and are likely to involve a small fraction of the total course work, are not extensive, and/or occur on a minor assignment. The following are examples:

1. Working with another student on a laboratory or other homework assignment when such work is prohibited.
2. Failure to footnote or give proper acknowledgment in an extremely limited section of an assignment.

Recommended sanctions for Level One violations are listed below:

- Reduction or no credit given for the original assignment.

- An assigned paper or research project on a relevant topic.
- A make-up assignment at a more difficult level than the original assignment.
- Required attendance in a non-credit workshop or seminar on ethics or related subjects.

(b) Level Two Violations

Level Two violations are characterized by dishonesty of a more serious character or that which affects a more significant aspect or portion of the course work. The following are examples:

1. Quoting directly or paraphrasing, to a moderate extent, without acknowledging the source.
2. Submitting the same work or major portions thereof to satisfy the requirements of more than one course without permission from the instructor.
3. Using data or interpretative material for a laboratory report without acknowledging the sources or the collaborators. All contributors to preparation of data and/or to writing the report must be named.
4. Receiving assistance from others, such as research, statistical, computer programming, or field data collection help that constitutes an essential element in the undertaking without acknowledging such assistance in a paper, examination or project.

Recommended sanctions for Level Two violations are listed below:

- Failing grade for the assignment involved with the grade in the course determined in the normal manner.
- Failing grade for the course, which may be an "F" or "FF" on the internal transcript.

(c) Level Three Violations

Level Three violations are those that go beyond Level One or Two violations and that affect a major or essential portion of work done to meet course requirements, or involve premeditation, or are preceded by one or more violations at Levels One and/or Two. Examples include:

1. Copying on examinations.

2. Plagiarizing major portions of a written assignment.
3. Acting to facilitate copying during an exam.
4. Using prohibited materials, e.g., books, notes, or calculators during an examination.
5. Collaborating before an exam to develop methods of exchanging information and implementation thereof.
6. Altering examinations for the purposes of regrading.
7. Acquiring or distributing an examination from unauthorized sources prior to the examination.
8. Presenting the work of another as one's own.
9. Using purchased term paper or other materials.
10. Removing posted or reserved material, or preventing other students from having access to it.
11. Fabricating data by inventing or deliberately altering material (this includes citing "sources" that are not, in fact, sources.
12. Using unethical or improper means of acquiring data.

Recommended sanctions for Level Three violations are listed below:

- Failing grade for the course with a designation of "FF" on student's internal transcript.
- Possible suspension from the University for one semester.

(d) Level Four Violations

Level Four violations represent the most serious breaches of intellectual honesty.

Examples of Level Four violations include:

1. All academic infractions committed after return from suspension for a previous academic honesty violation.
2. Infractions of academic honesty in ways similar to criminal activity (such as forging a grade form, stealing an examination from a professor or from a University office; buying an examination; or falsifying a transcript to secure entry into the University or change the record of work done at the University).

3. Having a substitute take an examination or taking an examination for someone else.
4. Fabrication of evidence, falsification of data, quoting directly or paraphrasing without acknowledging the source, and/or presenting the ideas of another as one's own in a senior thesis, within a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation, in scholarly articles submitted to refereed journals, or in other work represented as one's own as a graduate student.
5. Sabotaging another student's work through actions designed to prevent the student from successfully completing an assignment.
6. Willful violation of a canon of the ethical code of the profession for which a student is preparing.

Recommended sanctions for Level Four violations are listed below:

- The typical sanction for all Level Four violations is permanent academic dismissal from the University with the designation of "Dismissed for Academic Dishonesty" to be placed permanently on a student's external transcript.

(5) Additional Undergraduate Guidelines for Academic Dishonesty:

(a) Grade Assignment

1. An "FF" grade assigned to indicate academic dishonesty is reflected only on internal records and prevents the student from repeating the course using the Grade Forgiveness Policy. Students with any "FF" grade on record will not be eligible for honors at graduation.
2. If a student who has been accused of academic dishonesty drops the course, the student's registration in the course will be reinstated until the issue is resolved.
3. Any assigned grade may be changed to an "FF", "F", or other grade depending on the instructor's decision or the ultimate resolution of an academic grievance procedure. This includes any instance of academic dishonesty that is not detected by the instructor until after the student has dropped or completed the course.
4. Notification to the student of the "FF" grade and the option of appeal concerning the alleged academic dishonesty shall be the responsibility of the instructor and/or department chair. (See Student Academic Grievance Procedures.)
5. Notice that a student has been dismissed for reasons of academic dishonesty will be reflected on the student's transcript with the formal notation: Dismissed for Academic Dishonesty.
6. More serious violations of academic integrity may be referred to the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities as a student conduct violation.

(b) Multiple Violations:

1. For the first "FF" recorded in an undergraduate student's USF academic record, the student will receive a letter from the Dean of Undergraduate Studies informing him or her of being placed on "Academic Dishonesty Warning" for the remainder of enrollment at USF and of appeal rights for the "FF" grade. 2. For the second "FF" recorded, the undergraduate student will be suspended for one full semester and readmitted only after writing a clear statement indicating remorse, understanding of the seriousness of the offense, and understanding of the importance of integrity in all areas, including academic work. A letter informing him or her of this action and appeal rights will be sent from the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.

3. For the third "FF" recorded, the undergraduate student will be permanently dismissed from the University for violations of academic integrity and with notice of that dismissal as a part of the formal record and transcript. 4. The maximum penalty for receipt of any "FF" grade may be permanent dismissal from the University for violations of academic integrity and with a notice of that dismissal as a part of the student's formal record and transcript.

(6) Violations and Sanctions for Graduate Students^[2]

The Graduate School holds academic integrity in the highest regard. Graduate students are responsible for being aware of and complying with University Regulations and Policies and must conduct themselves accordingly. Sanctions for Academic Dishonesty will depend on the seriousness of the offense and may range from the receipt of:

- An "F" or "Zero" grade on the subject paper, lab report, etc.
- An "F" in the course or activity in which credit may be earned,
- An "FF" in the course (leading to expulsion from the University)
- Academic Dismissal for any violations of academic dishonesty policies or regulations
- Possible revocation of the degree or Graduate Certificate following a thorough investigation

Graduate students who are assigned an "FF" grade will be academically dismissed from the University and will not be eligible to apply to any graduate program at USF. Procedures regarding Academic Dishonesty and Academic Dismissal may be found on the Graduate School website.

(7) Additional Graduate Guidelines for Academic Dishonesty:

1. If a graduate student who has been accused of academic dishonesty drops the course, the student's registration in the course will be reinstated until the issue is resolved.
2. Any assigned grade may be changed to an "FF", "F", or other grade depending on the instructor's decision or the ultimate resolution of an academic grievance procedure. This includes any instance of academic dishonesty that is not detected until after the student has dropped or completed the course.
3. Notification to the graduate student of the "FF" grade and the option of appeal concerning the alleged academic dishonesty and academic dismissal remains with the instructor and/or department chair. (See Student Academic Grievance Procedures.)
4. A graduate student who has been dismissed for reasons of academic dishonesty will have this reflected on the student's transcript with the formal notation: Dismissed for Academic Dishonesty.
5. More serious violations of academic integrity may be referred to the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities as a student conduct violation.

(8) Appeals: Undergraduate and Graduate

Once the initial violation of the academic integrity regulation has been documented and fairly discussed by the student and the instructor, the student may appeal the instructor's decision that a violation has occurred. At that point the student will follow the procedures outlined in the University of South Florida's student Academic Grievance Procedure Policy. For academic integrity violations that are reviewed at the department and college levels, the respective committees will consider all evidence available to determine if the instructor's decision was correct. The student's ability to proceed within an academic program while an Academic Grievance is in process will be determined by the individual academic program chair/director.

Authority Art. IX, Fla. Constitution and Resolutions issued by the FL Board of Governors, 1006.60, 1006.61 FS. *History*–New _____.

[1] These policies apply to Undergraduate Students, even if taking graduate coursework.

Graduate students are students admitted to a graduate degree program or graduate certificate, and/or non-degree seeking students taking graduate coursework (such students should refer to *Section IV Violations and Sanctions for Graduate Students*)

[2] These policies apply to Graduate Students (students admitted to a graduate degree program or graduate certificate, and/or non-degree seeking students taking graduate coursework).

Undergraduate students should refer to *Section III Violations and Sanctions for Undergraduate Students*)