

Academic Integrity

Helena College expects its students to adhere to a high standard of academic integrity. It is a violation of academic integrity to present the ideas, designs, or works of another person as one's own efforts or to permit another person to do so. The following guidelines are intended to clarify these issues for students, faculty, and administration.

The College will regard the following acts as violations of academic integrity constituting academic dishonesty:

Plagiarism - A student will be considered in violation of academic integrity if he or she submits an assignment, whether written, oral, graphic, or computer-generated, which consists wholly or partially of the words, work, or ideas of another individual without giving the original author proper credit.

Copying - A student will be considered in violation of academic integrity if he or she uses crib notes, cheat sheets, books, or any other material or electronic device as aids in an examination or any other graded exercise, unless the instructor of the class has given permission to use such materials. Collaboration with another student on an examination or other graded exercise, unless the instructor has given permission, also constitutes copying.

Contributing to Academic Dishonesty - A student will be considered in violation of academic integrity if he or she willfully assists another student in an act of academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic sanctions for a first violation are at the discretion of the instructor and range from a failing grade for the particular instance to a failing grade in the course in which academic dishonesty occurs. When a faculty member assigns a failing course grade on the basis of academic dishonesty, he or she shall assign a grade of "FX." The student may petition the Registrar's Office by letter to remove only the "X" portion of the grade after successfully completing an Ethics course with a grade of "B" or better from any accredited college within three academic years of the original failure. Retaking the failed course does not remove the "F" or "FX" designation from the transcript. A student may not represent the College in any official manner nor hold a student government office with an "FX" grade.

Faculty must report all violations of academic integrity to the student involved, the appropriate Division Chair(s), and to the Associate Dean/Academic Affairs; in cases of repeated offenses, the Associate Dean/Academic Affairs will recommend disciplinary sanctions that may result in expulsion from the College. Students retain their right to due process and may refer to the Student Handbook or the Assistant Dean of Student Services regarding any academic or disciplinary sanctions.