

UW-Stevens Point Academic Integrity

UW-Stevens Point values academic integrity and views the classroom as a place where learning occurs between faculty and students. While we encourage and strive to help students understand the topic of academic integrity, some students will engage in academic misconduct. For faculty, the decision by a student to turn in a copied exam or plagiarized written work can feel like a violation of trust and might lead to intense personal reactions. It is important to understand these emotions as you implement the accountability process and know that for most students, decisions to engage in academic misconduct are fueled by anxiety and sense of desperation. While not excusing inappropriate behavior, it is important to understand the full context of a student's choices.

Prevention through open communication and clear expectations:

Instructors can foster an atmosphere of trust by open and frank discussions of the institution's value regarding academic integrity. For students to have an appreciation for learning and the importance of academic integrity, they need to understand that the work they turn in must solely be their own work. Instructors can start the discussion of academic integrity by explaining their expectations of the course in their syllabus and in the classroom.

If course content includes papers, make expectations about proper citations and plagiarism clear, include the proper mechanics of using and citing another's ideas as well as using another's exact words. If collaboration is permitted or encouraged on assignments, let students know what the expectations are on such assignments. In the age of Artificial Intelligence how these tools can and cannot be used for a particular course should be covered. Finally, instructors may wish to make clear the expectations on whether students may submit work that they have previously submitted in another course.

Engaging in open and honest communication about expectations and integrity will demonstrate the values and standards of the institution and will encourage students to remain truthful about their work and share their concerns and observations about others who are not.

Academic Integrity Syllabus Statement Example

Instructors are encouraged to include an academic integrity statement in their syllabi to provide clear and consistent expectations regarding UW-Stevens Point's commitment to an open, honest and just educational experience. Feel free to utilize or adapt the sample statement below:

At UW-Stevens Point and in all courses, we place great emphasis on academic integrity and honesty. Plagiarism, fabrication, cheating, helping others commit these acts, and any form of dishonesty compromise the educational process and devalue the achievements of all students. All work you submit must be original and completed individually unless collaboration is explicitly allowed. Always acknowledge your sources, cite appropriately, and give credit where it's due. If instances of alleged academic dishonesty are identified, appropriate actions will be taken in accordance with the institution's policies (UWSP Chapter 14). These actions could include revising the assignment, receiving a lower grade or no credit for the assignment, receiving a lower grade for the entire course, or facing greater academic consequences.

If you are unsure if something might be considered academic misconduct, you are struggling to understand the content or an assignment, or you have fallen behind for whatever reason, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. By nurturing a community of support, honesty, and respect, we ensure that academic pursuits and your experiences at UW-Stevens Point are both meaningful and genuine.

Resources for Students

Instructors are also encouraged to provide information about resources for students to strengthen their writing or other academic skills, which may help prevent academic misconduct in the future:

- The Tutoring-Learning Center (<https://www3.uwsp.edu/tlc> or 715-346-3568)
- How to Avoid Plagiarism: <https://libraryguides.uwsp.edu/plagiarism>
- How to Cite Sources: <https://libraryguides.uwsp.edu/citation?hs=a>
- Ask a Librarian (Weekdays, Hours Vary): <https://www3.uwsp.edu/library/>