Academic integrity as it applies to undergraduate students

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Academic integrity is based on ethics specific to the academy

- The academy is basically amoral (there is no moral code)
- **But it has a strong ethics code**: 
  - Honesty
  - Trust
  - Fairness
  - Respect
  - Responsibility and
  - Courage, even in the face of adversity

*As defined by the International Centre for Academic Integrity*
U of T's code of academic offences

- Altering, forging or falsifying documents
- Possession of unauthorized aids
- Impersonation
- Plagiarism
- Submission of work for which credit was previously obtained
- Submission of work containing purported statements of fact or references to concocted sources
- Altering, forging or falsifying an academic record
- Misconduct to obtain academic credit or advantage
- Assisting another student in committing an offence
But it is also an offence to:

- Alter a student record
- Give a student an unfair advantage
  - Admissions
  - Marking exams and assignments
- To ignore a student offence is contrary to the values of academia
Most common offences

- Plagiarism, including self-plagiarism
- Cheating on a quiz or exam
- Unauthorized aids in a quiz or exam
- Submission of work performed by someone else
- Allowing someone else to use your work
When is an offence handled at departmental level?

- Years 2 – 4, and
- Work worth 10% or less, and
- First offence, and
- Student acted alone

**Reporting is still required**

- File with AOTT (Academic Offence Tracking Tool)
Sanctions

- **First offence, if not egregious:**
  - Letter on file
  - Reduced mark in assignment
  - Serious talk with dean’s designate

- **Second, or serious offence:**
  - Zero in course
  - Notation on transcript
  - Suspension or expulsion
In particular, I want to emphasize:

- Do not refrain to report an offence because of
  - The student’s ethnic background
  - Potential consequences for the student
  - The work involved

- The university’s reputation depends on adherence to ethics
- The engineering profession depends on strict adherence to ethics
- The academic integrity process is an effective teaching tool
Recommendations

- Inform TAs of their duty to report
- Written assignments
  - Include a statement on Page 1 requiring a student signature
  - Clarify what constitutes a citation and how to write one
  - How to digest and paraphrase, and provide reference
  - Announce in course outline that Turnitin will or maybe used
- Quizzes and exams
  - Follow university recommendations
In Quercus, every course has a link to academic integrity in the top right corner.


Strategies for instructors and students: http://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/
Thank you

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