

## STUDENTS SPEAK OUT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

SFU is committed to creating an environment of zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. Integral to that commitment is education, prevention and ensuring that policies and procedures are acted upon fairly. In May 2009 SFU approved the revised Academic Honesty and Student Conduct (S.10) policy.

Most students do not cheat. However, it is important for SFU students to take a full and active role in protecting the academic honesty of the university community, of their discipline and department, and of their own individual academic integrity.

### TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Some ideas on how students can take responsibility for their personal academic integrity:

- Protect your own work, make sure that no one has access to your work either through a draft paper, preliminary assignment computations, or by sitting beside you in an exam.
- Know what the issues are. Know the difference between “study group” and “study group sharing an assignment”, and between borrowing a friend’s notes for class versus borrowing a friend’s assignment from a previous term when he or she took the same course. If you are unclear about what plagiarism is, ask your instructor or teaching assistant.
- Don’t be afraid to ask questions about plagiarism.
- Discipline-specific requirements may make a difference as to how something is perceived. For example, group work is encouraged in some disciplines and considered academic dishonesty in others. You need to know what is acceptable to your instructor.

### USE THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- It is part of the learning process to know how to correctly cite references, quote sources or show your own work correctly. You need to know how to balance your own ideas with established areas of knowledge.
- See your instructor first to ask for help, guidelines, references or other resources that might be specific to your course.
- Take advantage of extra study sessions or workshops put on by your department, instructor or teaching assistant.
- Don’t be afraid to ask specific questions about avoiding plagiarism.
- If there are reasons that you might not be able to meet a deadline, you must communicate with your instructor in advance to seek alternatives.
- If you are not doing well in a course, note the course drop deadlines at [students.sfu.ca/deadlines.html](http://students.sfu.ca/deadlines.html) and make timely decisions about your course load.
- If you are ill, use the General health care provider statement at [students.sfu.ca/forms.html](http://students.sfu.ca/forms.html) so that the instructor has appropriate information to make decisions.
- There are on-campus resources that can help you with study skills:
  - Student Learning Commons: [learningcommons.sfu.ca](http://learningcommons.sfu.ca)
  - SFU Library: [www.lib.sfu.ca](http://www.lib.sfu.ca)

### PROCEDURES AROUND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

What happens in cases of academic dishonesty:

- If you have been accused of academic dishonesty be sure to read the university policies so you know what the issues are and what procedures are followed.
- If you believe your instructor is being overzealous, be prepared to provide evidence that shows you did not cheat, e.g. your draft papers, your research methodology.
- Keep your own record of the circumstances, put the events into chronological order, and keep relevant documents and correspondence.
- Don’t be afraid to ask if there is something about the process you don’t understand.
- The Ombuds office can assist you with the process. You can contact the office through email: [jsolman@sfu.ca](mailto:jsolman@sfu.ca)

### APPEALS

Information on criteria and forms can be found at [students.sfu.ca/appeals/disciplinary\\_appeals.html](http://students.sfu.ca/appeals/disciplinary_appeals.html). The University Board on Student Discipline hears cases when a student believes the allegations of academic dishonesty are untrue.

The Senate Committee on Disciplinary Appeals hears students who are appealing the penalty.

The Ombuds person is available to assist students with the process for appealing allegations of academic dishonesty. Questions regarding the application of the policies can be directed to the Ombuds person: Email [jsolman@sfu.ca](mailto:jsolman@sfu.ca), telephone 778.782.4563, office Maggie Benston Centre 2264.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

A new code of Academic Integrity and Student Conduct has been approved by Senate and is available on an academic integrity website ([students.sfu.ca/academicintegrity.html](http://students.sfu.ca/academicintegrity.html)) that has resources and links for students and instructors, including “You and Your Tutor: Knowing the Boundaries” and the “Short Guide to Academic Honesty and Plagiarism.”

An advisory committee has been formed that will report to the University Registrar. The committee includes student representatives and will meet once each term. The advisory committee may be contacted through the Academic Integrity Co-ordinator in the Registrar’s office, Jo Hinchliffe at [joah@sfu.ca](mailto:joah@sfu.ca), 778.782.5350.

If you have any novel or interesting ideas for combating academic dishonesty, please share them by emailing Jo Hinchliffe. This helps us to develop strategies to then share with the entire campus community.