

# Carnegie Mellon University

## Africa



# Academic Integrity

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[www.cmu.edu/africa](http://www.cmu.edu/africa)

# *What is Cheating and Plagiarism?*

**Cheating and Plagiarism is what will  
ruin your grades  
or get you  
kicked out of school**

# What is the problem?

Do we understand this is serious?

Do we know what is cheating?

Do we know what is plagiarism?

# General Guidelines for CMU

- Honesty and originality are crucial. Do your own work.
- Academic Integrity is taken very seriously at CMU and Academic Dishonesty of any form is not tolerated.
- Each faculty member may make their own policies; you must learn the appropriate behavior for each class.
- Professors are not afraid to fail large numbers for cheating, so you should take it seriously too.

# In-Class Exercise 1

Work in your table-groups of 3 or 4.

Come up with as many ways to cheat as you can.

# Academic Integrity is Local

Academic integrity is different in different sectors and other cultures. Rules are not about universal understandings but local expectations of those rules.\*

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**What is something that was allowed at your previous school that you think might not be allowed at CMU (or vice versa)?**

# We bring our own ideas

Students do not arrive at university as 'blank slates', they bring pre-formed understandings of academic honesty and integrity.\*

**What most surprised you about our academic policy? Which part do you think is fair or unfair?**



# Example Syllabi and Academic Integrity Policies

Let's look the examples posted in the Modules section on Canvas.

# Don't be a Leech!



# In-Class Exercise 2

- Form new groups of 3 or 4.
- For each card your group is given, discuss and decide if it is:
  1. Is a Breach of Academic Integrity
  2. Is NOT a Breach of Academic Integrity
  3. ????
- Place each card in the 1, 2, or 3 pile.

# Stories

We will share some of our own stories and experiences with academic dishonesty.

Some are from CMU-Africa, some from other schools, some are from TAs.

As we talk about them, note your own reactions:

- Do they match the culture at CMU-Africa?
- How can you adjust?
- How can you help other students to adjust?

# Additional Thoughts

From faculty, staff, students, and alumni:

- To become great future leaders, we need a culture of integrity.
- Many people in the world believe that CMU-Africa is more academically dishonest than other campuses because we are in Africa - we must be diligent in counteracting that stereotype.
- It is everyone's job to expect the proper culture with regards to Academic Integrity at CMU and to be diligent in creating and maintaining this culture.

# More Additional Thoughts

From faculty, staff, students, and alumni:

- Understand that change starts with the individual i.e. "For others to change, I must change."
- It will take time, but you do need to make sure you change to the CMU culture right away. Do not violate Academic Integrity policies in any of your classes; this needs to start from Day 1.
- If academic dishonesty becomes entrenched in our CMU-Africa culture, it could lead to the failure of the entire program.

# Academic Integrity Assignment

- Form teams of 4 students; setup your Academic Integrity teams using the Groups on Canvas.
- Prepare a presentation on Academic Integrity, following the instructions posted on Canvas.
- Work together during your Wednesday M-Session to prepare your presentation.
- Present during your Friday M-Session to one of the Academic Integrity Panels (chosen at random).
- Submit the visual aids used for the presentation via Canvas - due Friday by 1:20.

# More Discussion

Any Questions of us?

Next, you can discuss Academic Integrity with members of the Student Guild.