

Academic Integrity: What does it really mean?

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As we creep dangerously close to the end of the semester, let's stop for a moment and think about academic decisions that you will be making. Penn State takes academic integrity violations very seriously, and therefore so should you. To make sure we're all on the same page, here are some examples that may not appear at first glance to be violations of University policy, but in fact – are.

- You realize that the topic for the final paper in one of your classes is very similar to a paper that you wrote in high school. With little time left, you decide to simply hand in that paper in after making a few minor changes. VIOLATION: You've just plagiarized yourself. You can't turn in work that has been previously submitted for another class without first talking to that professor.
- Your roommate previously took one of the classes that you are currently taking. She still has all her old tests from that class and offers them to you to help you study, saying she's heard the professor uses the same tests every semester. You take them, thinking what a great help that is. VIOLATION: Possessing exam materials is against the code of conduct.

There are many more... Just think carefully about what you are doing in these last few weeks. A mistake now could cost you what you've worked so hard this semester to achieve.

Until next time... For the Glory – Know the Code!