

# Session F331

## How Much Cheating Is Enough?

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# Academic Integrity

“Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity  
in an open, honest and responsible manner”

<http://www.psu.edu/ufs/policies>



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# Violations of Academic Integrity

- **Cheating** is the inappropriate and unacknowledged use of materials, information, designs, ideas or study aids in any academic exercise.
- **Fabrication** is the falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic work.
- **Plagiarism** is the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise
- **Complicity** is intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

[www.philau.edu](http://www.philau.edu)



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# Academic Dishonesty is a Problem

- Dyrbye et al surveyed 4400 medical students from seven US medical schools (years 1-4). They found that 27.4% of students admitted to engaging in cheating or dishonest behavior.
- A 2001 study (Wajda-Johnston et al) of 246 students in masters degree, law, medical, and doctorate programs found that 28.7% of the students answered affirmatively to the question, "Have you cheated in graduate school?"



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# ARC-PA Standards

- A3.02 The program must inform students of program policies and practices.
- No specific standard regarding academic dishonesty

[www.arc-pa.org](http://www.arc-pa.org)



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# Institutional Policies

- Institutions publish a statement/policy to students regarding academic dishonesty in the student handbook
- This typically includes definitions of the various types of academic dishonesty and the steps that are taken in instances of violation of the academic integrity policy
- Varies greatly from institution to institution



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# Program Policies

- Institutional policies are adhered to at the Program level, but questions often arise:
- Should academic dishonesty be dealt with primarily at the program level? Or at the institution level? And, are program decisions regarding academic dishonesty supported at the institution level?
- Because of the emphasis on high standards for professionalism within PA programs, when it comes to academic integrity, are PA students held to higher standards than undergraduate students, or even other graduate students, and should they be?



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# Activity

In your groups for each scenario, please discuss the following:

1. How would your program handle this situation?
2. How does your institution support your PA program in making academic integrity decisions?
3. Among your group, how would you prefer to handle this situation?



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