

Session T 237

***Establishing a culture of
academic integrity: Are we doing
enough?***

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Why is academic integrity (AI) important?

- Health care professionals
 - Expectation of honesty
 - Safety of our patients
 - Is strongly linked to professional integrity
- AND.....

ARC-PA Standard B1.05:

The curriculum *must* include instruction about intellectual honesty and appropriate academic and professional conduct.

What is considered cheating?

- Working with others on individual project
- Falsifying data
- Reporting physical exam findings that weren't checked
- Copying answers during a test
- Using unpermitted crib notes
- Accepting questions/answers from another student
- Plagiarism

Why do students cheat?

- New pressures
- Temptation
- Pressure to succeed
- Trickle down effect: “everyone is doing it”
- Poor understanding of what is considered cheating

How big is the problem?

- 95% of higher education students admit to cheating at some point in their education (Laduke, 2013)
 - Yet 49.5% of PA Program Directors say they have little or no concern related to academic integrity with their students (Dereczyk, 2015)
- Onset is at young age: 40.5% of students graduating high school admit cheating (Taradi, 2010)
- A survey of medical students shows 58% admit to cheating at least once in medical school (Kusnoor, 2013)
- Strong relationship between academic dishonesty and workplace dishonesty (Harding, 2004)

Does this apply to the PA world?

- Numbers are lower for PA students
- 30% admit to collaborating with others on individually assigned work; 56% felt this did not constitute cheating (Dereczyk, 2010)
- 8% admitted obtaining questions/answers from a prior taker of the test; 2% said this was not cheating (Dereczyk, 2010)

Overview of Rutgers PA Program AI Training

- A letter is presented to the students during orientation entitled “A Letter To Our Students”
 - Introduces the topic of academic integrity and emphasize its importance
- School requires completion of 3 academic integrity training modules
 - Must be completed before program start

- Module I
 - Intro to professionalism and values
- Module II
 - Students obligations to follow the rules and information on reporting violations
 - Obligations for taking tests, writing papers, submitting assignments and doing group work

- Module III
 - Teaches the students how to avoid problems
 - Gives an overview of potential problems
 - Tips on how to avoid temptation
 - Types of violations and potential sanctions
 - Goes over principles of academic integrity

- Small group meetings 2-3 weeks into the 1st semester to review various integrity scenarios
 - Is this cheating?
 - Per School policy, what could be the ramifications?
 - Thoughts and feelings
 - How would they handle similar situations
- Signing of AI pledge
 - Class picture taken and visible in student area for remainder of time they are in program
 - Constant reminder of importance of AI

Integrity Pledge - Class of 2018

As a student at the Rutgers University-School of Health Related Professions Physician Assistant Program, I pledge to uphold the traditions of the university and help to create a culture of Academic Integrity. I will hold myself to the same standards that are set for me by my fellow students, faculty and staff. I will do my best to uphold the principles of the Rutgers University-SHRP PA Program by exhibiting:

RESPONSIBILITY
PROFESSIONALISM

TRUST
RESPECT

FAIRNESS
COURAGE

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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RUTGERS

School of Health Related
Professions

Each Rutgers PA program course syllabus contains the following:

Statement on Academic Integrity

The faculty of Rutgers-School of Health Related Professions believes that students must observe and support high standards of honesty and integrity in all aspects of education, practice, and research. All students in this course are expected to abide by the School's Faculty/Student Honor Code and accept responsibility for ensuring that these standards are maintained by reporting violations of the Honor Code observed in others. All violations will be considered with gravest concern and may be punishable with sanctions as severe as suspension or dismissal.

Round table discussion!

- AI strategies employed at your program?
- Would pass/fail grading alleviate temptation?
- How we counter “mixed messages” that students encounter on rotation?
- Are violation penalties severe enough (or is punishment even a relevant factor?)
- What are the challenges to AI posed by advancing technology?

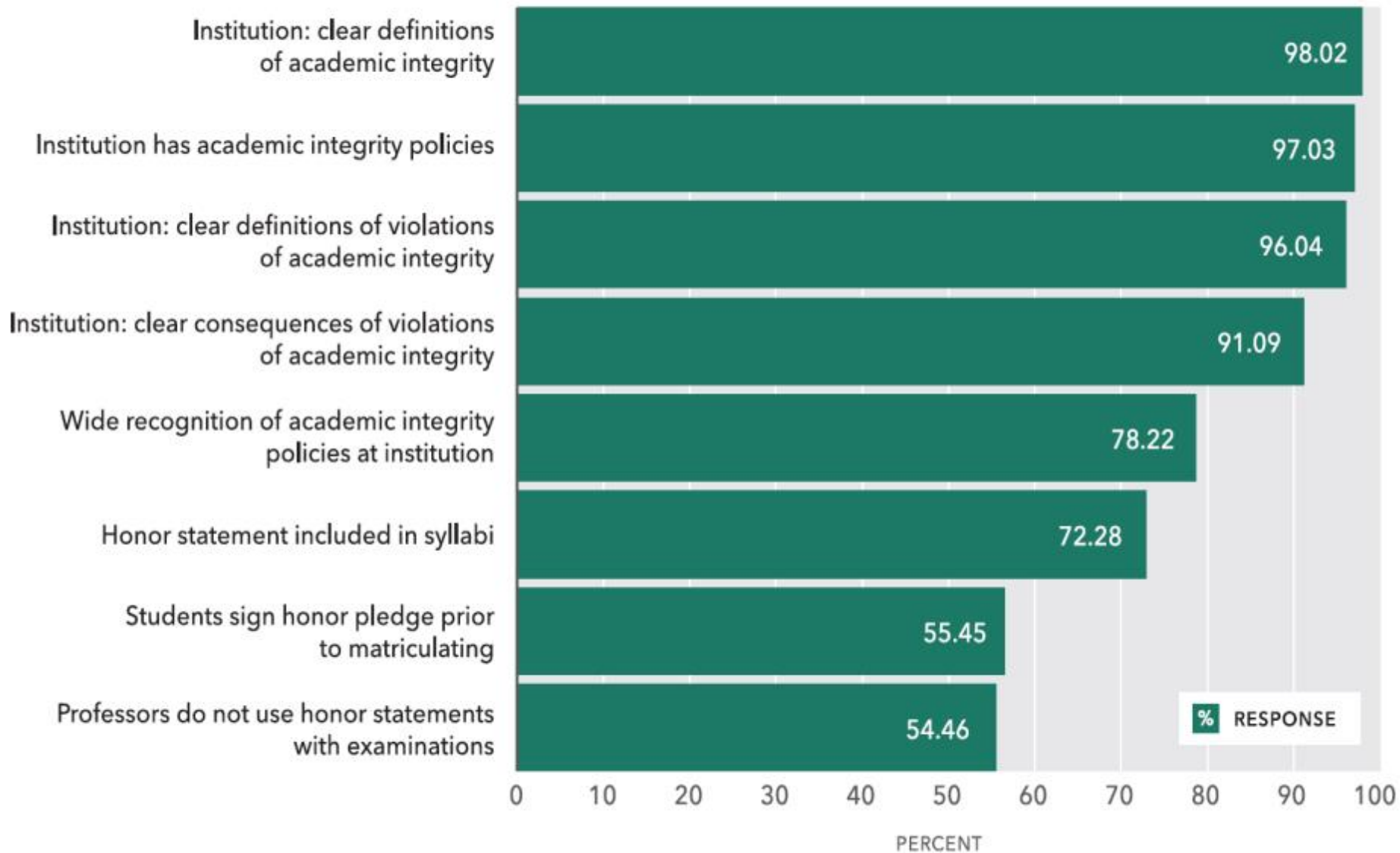


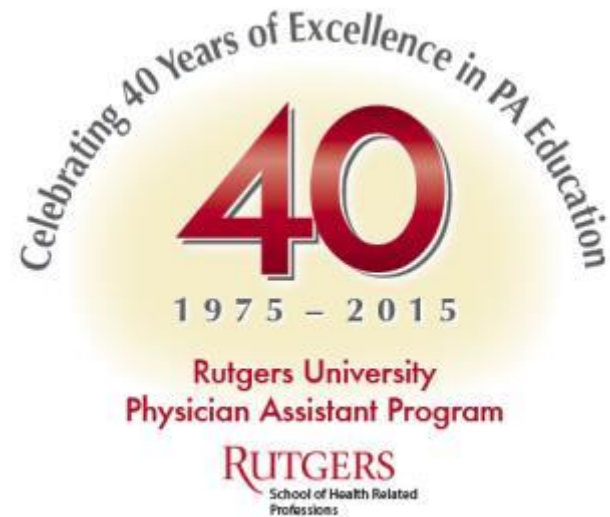
Figure 4. Policies and procedures related to academic integrity.

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Thank you!



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