

WSCS Statement on Student Cheating

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is careful avoidance of deception, especially avoiding dishonesty for the purpose of improving a grade or to obtain course credit. A student, who has an opportunity to help plan their own learning, who is taking responsibility for his or her own work, and who recognizes study as an opportunity to learn, grow, and produce something worthwhile, will seldom feel a need to be dishonest about what he or she has done.

Note that the student has full responsibility for the content and integrity of all academic work submitted. Students who are unclear about a specific situation should ask their Advising Teacher.

WSCS Policy

The teacher's first assumption will be that work a student turns in is the student's own and that what a student says is true. However, WSCS teachers keep a close eye on academic fraud (cheating) and the consequences are severe. WSCS maintains what could be called a "Zero Tolerance" policy regarding cheating. Here's the process:

1st time caught cheating

- Student receives a Non-Compliance notice
- Student receives a failing grade on the assignment
- Student's semester grade in that course is automatically lowered by one grade

2nd time caught cheating

- Student is disenrolled from school with the Non-Compliance exit letter in CUM file stating reason
- Student receives a failing grade in the class in which he or she cheated

Examples of Academic Fraud

Taking Information

- Copying assignments from another student.
- Copying or otherwise using an answer key on worksheets, tests, etc, rather than demonstrating your own expertise.
- Working together on tests or other assignments and calling it your own.
- Looking at another student's paper during an examination.
- Accessing another student's computer and using his/ her data as your own.

Providing Information

- Giving your work to another to be copied or used.
- Giving answers to another student during an examination.
- Providing a term paper or other project information for a student to copy or use as his or her own.
- Taking an examination, writing a paper, or creating computer data or artistic work for another.

Plagiarism

- Failing to give credit for ideas, statements of fact, or conclusions derived by another author. Failure to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another author, whether it is a paragraph, a sentence, or a part thereof.

- Copying from an Internet site and using the information as your own.
 - NOTE: With today's "information age" technology, this form of plagiarism has become rampant. You must be sure to properly document any information used from the Internet.
- Submitting a paper purchased from a "research" or term paper service.
 - NOTE: Most of these sites are actually free. Play it safe and just stay away from them. Even if you document the material, these sites engage in plagiarism for profit and should not be visited.
- Copying another person's assignment and handing it in as your own.
- Giving a speech or oral presentation written by another and claiming it as your own work.
- Claiming credit for artistic work done by someone else, such as a music composition, photos, a painting, drawing or design.
- Presenting another's computer data as one's own.

Other Academic Dishonesty:

- Planning with one or more fellow students to commit any form of academic dishonesty together.
- Having another student take your examination or do your assignment or lab experiments.
- Lying to an instructor to increase a grade.
- Submitting papers or speeches that are substantially the same for credit in two different courses without prior approval of the instructors.
- Copying computer software from a flash drive, CD or hard drive unless specifically allowed by the instructor.

By signing below I understand the Western Sierra Charter Schools Cheating policy and understand the consequences that would result if I choose not to abide by these expectations of academic honesty.

Print Student's Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian please sign below to acknowledge you have reviewed and accept the WSCS Cheating policy and will help WSCS staff enforce and adhere to these expectations of academic honesty.

Parent/Guardian's Name Printed

Parent/Guardian Signature