Understanding Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is maintaining honesty and responsibility while conducting all academic affairs. In other words, it is the opposite of cheating, plagiarism, and other infractions that are described below. The College of Engineering and the University of Illinois as a whole, value academic integrity. It is very important that you as the student understand its importance, its meaning, your rights and responsibilities, and the appropriate steps to take if you are accused of an academic integrity violation.

- More on what is Academic Integrity, what it is not, and why it matters HERE.
- Example resource: UI Library Tutorial on Chicago Citation Style.

Strategies for Maintaining Academic Integrity: what to look for and how to avoid violations

First and foremost, ASK QUESTIONS!

In doubt, your instructor will clarify what is expected in his/her class in terms of Academic Integrity. Make sure to ask questions as to what is expected from you. There are common sense behaviors that should be avoided, such as taking an exam for somebody else, but for less obvious expectations, simply ask the instructor.

- More on Avoiding Academic Violations HERE.
- Resources and readings Center for Academic Integrity

Your Rights/How to handle violations: the steps to take if you receive a violation allegation

The role of the Student Code

The Student Code provides the legal process for dealing with academic integrity violations, and includes certain protections for students. This document outlines the process and suggests some approaches for navigating that process. The Student Code itself is the authoritative source for academic integrity procedures. If there is any conflict between this document and the Student Code, the Student Code governs.

Within the Student Code, academic integrity issues are covered in Article 1, Part 4. The Student Code is available in printed form at the Office of the Dean of Students, at the University of Illinois Undergraduate Library and in 206 Engineering Hall. It is available online at http://admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/

The instructor’s allegation, and your response (your rights!)

The process should involve the following stages: instructor allegation; student response; instructor investigation, finding & sanction; and potentially a student appeal.

If a course instructor seems to be changing your grade because of an academic integrity violation and they are not following these steps, you should check with the departmental office of the department offering the course, or with the College of Engineering advising office in 206 Engineering Hall.

A short Quick Reference guide for Students may be found at http://www.provost.illinois.edu/academicintegrity/students.html