West Valley College
Academic Dishonesty Policy

Board Policy
Dishonesty includes but is not limited to in-class cheating, out-of-class cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to College staff, administrators, or other officials.

a. In-class cheating: during an examination or on any work for which the students will receive a grade or points, unauthorized looking at or procuring information from any unauthorized sources, or any other student’s work.

b. Out-of-class cheating: unauthorized acquisition, reading, or knowledge of test questions prior to the testing date and time; changing any portion of the returned graded test or report and resubmitting as original work to be graded; or presenting the work from another as one’s own for a grade or points.

c. Plagiarism: unauthorized use of expression of ideas from either published or unpublished work(s) as a student’s own work for a grade in class. This also includes the violation of copyright laws, including software packages.

d. Furnishing false information: forgery, falsification, alteration of misuse of College documents, records, or identification in class or in laboratory situations.

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty

When a student is caught with plagiarism or cheating related to a class, and the instructor has reasonable proof or documentation or the student admits to the violation, the instructor may select one or more of the following options:

a. Issue an oral or written notification and warn the student that further acts of this sort will result in additional disciplinary action.

b. Issue a Pass or No Pass or failing grade (“F”) or “0” for the assignment in question. Issue a Pass or No Pass or failing grade for the course if the assignment so warrants.

c. Refer the student to the Vice President of Student Services for disciplinary action.

For more information regarding the student conduct, appeals and grievance policies refer to the College Catalog.

West Valley College
Student Conduct: Academic Integrity

Student Services

For more information regarding the student appeals and grievance policy refer to the College Catalog.
Issues of academic integrity and dishonesty are common on America's college campuses. A recent statewide study reported that two-thirds of California Community College students confessed to cheating at least once. Cheating appears to be a common practice by today's students, but is it worth it to you? Better yet, do you knowingly commit acts that could be deemed as academically dishonest? Being caught committing academic dishonesty can lead to disciplinary consequences.

Maintaining high standards of academic scholarship should be important to you as a student. Making the personal commitment to academic integrity will require you to consider how and why you make the decisions you do regarding academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is defined differently by each individual and institution. In general, academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism.

*Cheating – getting unauthorized help on an assignment, quiz, or examinations.

*Plagiarism-submitting work as your own that belongs to someone else.

Purchasing term papers or submitting a paper (even a portion of a paper) you did not write is also considered plagiarism. Think twice before you allow (or expect) the members of your class project to do the work for you. Putting your name on work you did not complete is a form of cheating and plagiarism.

Avoiding Academic Dishonesty

- Learn how to cite borrowed ideas and information correctly.
- Ask each of your instructors to provide their definition of cheating and plagiarism during the first class meeting of the semester. This helps you avoid unclear situations later.
- Spend time studying for exams and avoid missing class. Academic success requires devoting time to your classes. If you are prepared, you should not cheat.
- Make it known that you will not tolerate acts of academic dishonesty in your learning environment. Stop tolerating acts of academic dishonesty committed by your peers.