Code of Academic Conduct

Academic Honor Code

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on tests and projects, at the discretion of the course instructor, each student will be expected to sign an Honor Pledge.

The Academic Honor Pledge reads as follows: I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedures that will result from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academic or related matter and any knowing or intentional help, attempt to help, or conspiracy to help another student commit an act of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following acts, when performed in any type of academic or academically related matter, exercise or activity:

- **Cheating:** Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, study aids or computer-related information.
- **Plagiarism:** Representing the words, data, works, ideas, computer programs or output, or anything not generated in an authorized fashion, as one's own.
- **Fabrication:** Presenting as genuine, any invented or falsified citation or material.
- **Misrepresentation:** Falsifying, altering or misstating the contents of documents or other materials related to academic matters, including schedules, prerequisites and transcripts.

Except in divisions that have an alternate academic misconduct policy that has been approved by the provost/executive vice president for academic affairs, academic misconduct cases shall be resolved by the academic misconduct monitor (appointed by the academic dean) or the academic dean of the division in which the alleged action took place. Appeals from the monitor’s decisions may be made to the academic dean; appeals from the academic dean’s decisions may be made to the Office for Academic Affairs.

Penalties for academic misconduct can range from a reprimand to a penalty as severe as suspension for a definite time or even indefinite suspension. Indefinite suspension normally requires a minimum of one semester, after which students may appeal for reinstatement. Academic deans have the authority to impose the full range of penalties. Divisional academic misconduct monitors may impose penalties only after receiving a voluntary written confession unless otherwise designated by the dean. Academic misconduct monitors are authorized to impose penalties up to, but not including, suspension. All persons who admit to or are found guilty of an academic offense for which a penalty less than an indefinite suspension is imposed will receive a penalty of indefinite suspension if they admit to or are found guilty of another offense of academic misconduct. In all cases that involve suspension as a penalty, the Office of the University Registrar will be notified immediately of the suspension and a hold will be placed on the student’s record to prevent further enrollment.

A penalty of indefinite suspension is mandated for a finding of guilt on all second offenses. All second offense accusations are referred directly to the academic dean of the College for resolution. "Second offense accusations" assume resolution of first offenses (i.e., a finding of guilt) and that the student has been afforded the opportunity to learn from the first offense. Multiple misconduct accusations, where the initial accusations have not been resolved, may result in a penalty more severe than is typical in first offenses, including indefinite suspension. For second-offense cases that are in progress at the beginning of a semester, a student will be allowed to enroll and continue through completion of the semester even if the outcome of the accusation is suspension.

If an academic misconduct case is underway during a student’s final semester, the awarding of the degree may be dependent upon the resolution of the case.

The complete Academic Integrity Policy may be found online at studenthandbook.ua.edu/conduct.html.