INTEGRITY.

We have all heard this word used countless times to describe something good, someone wise or worthy of a lot of respect. But what exactly is integrity? According to Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary, integrity can be defined as “firm adherence to a code of especially moral or artistic values.” They key to integrity is consistency — setting high personal standards for oneself (honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, respect for others, responsibility) and living up to those standards each day even when making life’s hard choices (choices clouded by stress, pressure to succeed, or temptation).

WHY INTEGRITY MATTERS.

The most important reason each of us at Truman should strive to be a person of integrity is that all human relationships -- and therefore, the very fabric of our campus, local, state, national, and international communities -- is based on our ability to trust one another, which in turn is based on honesty. Each day, we rely on our ability to trust others. If that trust didn’t exist, we couldn’t put money in the bank, buy food, clothing, or medicine; drive across a bridge; get on a plane; go to the dentist—the list is endless.

Let’s be clear about Truman’s primary mission: education. Academic dishonesty and misconduct undermine the learning process in multiple ways: it stunts the development of important academic skills such as reading, writing, analysis, research, synthesis, and understanding; it hinders students in recognizing their strengths and weaknesses in each of these areas; it prevents the development of academic self-confidence that comes from successfully completing a challenging assignment.

If we earn grades dishonestly, not only do we diminish the quality of a Truman education, we also undermine the value of the college experience and the value of our college degrees.

Academic integrity can be defined “as a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.” (Center for Academic Integrity, 1999).

Academic Integrity.

TRUST

RESPECT

FAIRNESS

HONESTY

RESPONSIBILITY

5 FUNDAMENTAL VALUES

A Guide for Truman State University Students

2009-2010

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INTEGRITY

INTEGRITY is not what we say, or what we say we do.

- Zeo Galer

Don’t recognize yourself. All you can get

- Jonas Salk

It is better to discover honesty and not have them than to have them and not discover them.

- Mark Twain

Be true to your work, your word, and your friend.

- Henry Thoreau

Character is higher than intellect.

- Mark Twain

Honesty

Honesty is the first chapter in the Book of Wisdom. Let it be our endeavor to write a character of a just nature. - Thomas Jefferson

Always tell the truth. If you can’t always tell the truth, don’t lie.

- Mark Twain

TRUST

TRUST without verification is nothing.

- Anonymous

Trust is the lubrication that makes it possible for organizations to work.

- Warren Buffett

It is not trust, but even more than trust, that holds human associations together.

- H. L. Mencken

FAIRNESS

FAIRNESS is the golden rule for acquiring knowledge; it is unselfish, hardworking student at Truman. If you feel uncomfortable doing with a professor, department chair, or academic dean, feel free to contact the Student Affairs Office at s411. They will be happy to advise and help you in addition to the problem.

AVOID:

The best way to stay out of trouble is to pay careful attention to your own academic responsibilities.

DO NOT LOOK AROUND DURING A TEST since it may appear that you are trying to copy from others and make sure to cover your work.

MAKE SURE THAT NO NOTES or materials are exposed or accessible during a test that could cause someone to believe that you are using unauthorized aids.

REFUSE TO DISCUSS AN EXAM with students in other sections.

DO NOT PROVIDE OLD EXAMS to other students without the consent of the faculty.

REFUSE TO GIVE AWAY old term papers.

IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT, clarify with your professor how much collaboration, if any, is permitted or expected when working on group project or assignments.

DEMONSTRATE CONSCIENCE AND RESPECT for one another, any use of, or access to your computer accounts or programs. Other students could use them to access your work and subsequently get you involved in an academic dishonesty case.

SINCE WE ALL KNOW that it is impossible to write everything with complete originality, use quotes and/or footnotes to acknowledge other peoples’ words or ideas used in your paper. Check with the professor for proper techniques for citations if you have any doubts.
DON'T FORGET: 7

CHECK WITH YOUR INSTRUCTOR before turning in a paper or project you submitted in another class.

WHEN COMPLETING TAKE-HOME TESTS, do not collaborate with other students unless approved by the professor.

ALSO, IT IS A GOOD IDEA to ask professors before using the course’s prior tests from friends or text books as study guides.

ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY for academic integrity by confronting students you suspect of cheating and discussing the issue of academic integrity, providing positive peer pressure; and raising the issue in classroom discussions and stating your expectations.

SOURCES:
8. Truman State University, (2001) "Academic Integrity Policy Proposal: Policy on Academic Integrity." The Student Conduct Code and further information on academic integrity are available from:

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