

What Is Academic Dishonesty?

At PVPHS, we value academic integrity and do not tolerate any forms of dishonesty or deception that unfairly, improperly or illegally enhances a grade on an individual assignment or a course grade. We are aware that new methods of cheating, plagiarism and other forms of dishonesty may arise. Therefore, we expect every student to interpret the requirement of academic honesty and integrity broadly and in good faith. If you have any doubt as to whether a particular act constitutes academic dishonesty, ask a teacher before you do it! The following is a list of behaviors that constitute academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to :

Cheating

1. Copying from others. This includes tests, essays and homework.
2. Having, using or programming notes, formulas or other electronic devices without explicit teacher review and permission.
3. Communicating via cell phone, pagers, PDA, electronic translator, etc. to send or obtain unauthorized information.
4. Asking another to give you improper assistance, including offering money or other benefits.
5. Asking for or accepting money or any other benefit in return for giving another person improper assistance.
6. Asking or giving information on any part of a test, quiz or assignment (e.g. telling someone in a subsequent period what was on your exam, or being told this information).
7. Having or using a "cheat sheet" (a piece of paper with answers, formulas, information, or notes of any kind) that is not specifically authorized by the teacher.
8. Altering a graded exam and resubmitting it for a better grade.
9. Working together on a take-home exam, unless specifically authorized by the teacher.
10. Gaining or providing unauthorized access to examination materials.
11. Copying the answers or questions after test/quiz is completed.
12. Providing or accepting an essay or project that has been previously submitted by the student for another grade in another class.

Plagiarism

1. Giving or getting improper assistance on an assignment meant to be individual work. (When in doubt, ask.)
2. Including with any assignment turned in for credit any materials not based on your own research and writing. This includes:
 - a. Using the services of a commercial term paper company.
 - b. Using the services of another student
 - c. Copying part or all of another person's paper and submitting it as your own for an assignment.
3. Acting as a provider of paper(s) for a student or students.
4. Submitting substantial portions of the same academic work for credit in more than one course without consulting both teachers (self-plagiarism).
5. Failing to use quotation marks where appropriate.
6. Failing to properly acknowledge paraphrased materials via textual attribution, footnotes, endnotes and/or a bibliography, presenting ideas that are not your own.
7. Making up data for an experiment ("fudging data")
8. Citing nonexistent sources (articles, books, etc.)
9. Using the services of another student or parent to significantly alter the product to be graded.

Other

1. Misrepresenting your academic accomplishments by tampering with computer records.
2. Deceiving a teacher or making up a false reason or excuse to get special consideration on an exam or an extension for an exam or paper.
3. Failing to promptly stop work on an exam when the time allocated has elapsed.
4. Forging a signature.

Note: Attempted academic dishonesty, even if unsuccessful, will be treated as academic dishonesty.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS/PARENTS REGARDING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Cheating has reached epic proportions in American schools. A 2002 survey of more than 12,000 high school students revealed that 74% admitted to cheating at least once in the previous year, and 48% reported that they cheated two or more times in the past twelve months. Colleges and Universities report that the number of students caught cheating over the past five years has dramatically increased, and the consequence at most colleges/universities is immediate expulsion.

Palos Verdes Peninsula High School is dedicated to promoting a learning environment based on a foundation of personal integrity. Our goal is for students to build an independent foundation of critical thinking skills so that such actions are not necessary to achieve success. To accomplish this goal, we need your support and active involvement in reinforcing the importance of academic integrity.

Disciplinary action at PVPHS in response to cheating, plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty is serious; so please carefully review the PVPUSD Disciplinary Consequences/Punishment Policy in regards to this violation.

1st Offense : Parent/guardian contact; assignment of failing grade on project/exam in question; warning by administrator of consequences of any repeated cheating offense; probable "U" in citizenship in class in question; probable failure ("F") in class.

Any subsequent offense: Parent/guardian conference; removal from class in question with "U" in citizenship and "F": grade; probable immediate reassignment to a school/program away from the home campus.

Please review the above information together and hand in a signed copy of this Honor Code at registration on August 26. Thanks for your assistance in the effort.

Sincerely,

Greg Puccia
Associate Principal

------(Please detach here)-----

Acknowledgement of Honor Code

We as a family have discussed academic dishonesty and support the PVPHS initiative to promote academic integrity.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Date