

Academic Responsibility at



What International Students Should Know

Introduction

Mount Holyoke students are bound by the Honor Code, a standard of behavior in academic and social circumstances.

In your home country you may have learned a particular code of academic conduct which may differ from the academic code of conduct in effect in the U.S. (and at MHC). There may be different ideas about what constitutes academic misconduct in your country. Cultural differences may also affect how you determine whether a particular behavior is dishonest.

Academic programs at U.S. colleges and universities are very rigorous and demanding. While you are a student at MHC, you will occasionally experience stress as you complete your academic work. You may be anxious about completing your assignments on time, worry about your grades, or focus too much on doing well in your studies so that you don't disappoint your family.

Such pressures may lead you to violate the Honor Code unintentionally because you did not fully understand what constitutes academic misconduct. Of course, academic misconduct can also be intentional.

We hope that the information, tips and suggestions in this pamphlet will serve as a useful resource and help you learn what to do to remain academically honest and avoid committing an Honor Code violation.

MHC Honor Code

I will honor myself, my fellow students, and Mount Holyoke College by acting responsibly, honestly, and respectfully in both my words and deeds.



Definitions¹

There are several forms of academic misconduct which constitute a violation of the Honor Code. You should familiarize yourself with the following concepts:

PLAGIARISM:

Use of another's work or ideas as one's own in academic submissions. Examples: Copying another person's paper, homework, or other work and submitting it as an assignment; copying or paraphrasing ideas, conclusions, or research without properly citing the source.

FABRICATION:

Falsification or creation of data, research or resources to support academic submissions. Example: Making up data for an experiment or citing non-existent articles.

CHEATING:

Actual or attempted use of resources not authorized by the instructor(s) for academic submissions. Examples: Using a "cheat sheet" or copying answers from a fellow student during a closed-book exam; conferring with a fellow student about possible answers during an exam.

MHC Web Site

Mount Holyoke has created a special Web site for students called [The Proper Use of Sources](#). Here you will find information on the different forms of plagiarism, proper scholarly procedure for citing sources, and links to helpful Web sites for further information. There is also a special tutorial on the Web site for you to complete.

¹ Definitions appear in *Academic Integrity at the University of Denver: An Informational Brochure for International Students On Academic Integrity and Excellence* (August 2006).

Tips for Ensuring Academic Honesty ²

You cannot copy work from any person (including a fellow student) or source (such as a book, article, or Web site) without acknowledging others' work fully and openly. Otherwise, it's cheating or plagiarism and a violation of the Honor Code.

TIP 1: If you have a group assignment, be sure you understand what the group is supposed to do together and what you are supposed to do on your own. If you are not sure, ask your professor.

TIP 2: If you use an author's exact words, enclose them in quotation marks and include a citation. See the tutorial for examples.

TIP 3: If you paraphrase another author, use your own language. Don't imitate the original. Be sure to include a citation.

TIP 4: If you rely on or report someone else's ideas, credit that source, whether you agree with the source or not.

TIP 5: If you see that a fellow student has committed academic misconduct, it is your responsibility to notify your professor or the [Academic Honor Board](#).

- Remember that you are responsible for your written and oral work, including the ideas, facts, and the interpretations you include.
- Unless you state otherwise, every word you write or say is assumed to be your own.

Please consult the Academic Honor Board's [Statement of Policies and Procedures](#) for detailed information about the Academic Honor Code at Mount Holyoke College, including the penalties for a violation(s) of the Academic Honor Code.

² Tips and suggestions appear in *Succeeding as an International Student in the United States and Canada* by Charles Lipson (University of Chicago Press, 2008).