

Ethics of Research

Bakersfield College's Policies on Academic Honesty

Academic Honesty

The administration, faculty, and staff at Bakersfield College believe that students are entitled to the finest education that the college can make available to them. At the same time, however, a student's achievement and proficiency in subject matter must include the realization that there are standards of academic honesty which should prevail in all one's endeavors.

Accordingly, this realization further requires that each student exerts every effort to maintain these standards.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Source: Regulations at California State University, Long Beach, General Catalog, 2011-12.

Definition of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as the act of using the ideas or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own, without giving credit to the source. Such an act is not plagiarism if it is ascertained that the ideas were arrived at through independent reasoning or logic or where the thought or idea is common knowledge. Acknowledgment of an original author or source must be made through appropriate references, i.e., quotation marks, footnotes, or commentary. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following: the submission of a work, whether in part or in whole, completed by another, failure to give credit for ideas, statements, facts or conclusions which rightfully belong to another; in written work, failure to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or even part thereof; close and lengthy paraphrasing of another's writing or programming. A student who is in doubt about the extent of acceptable paraphrasing should consult the instructor. Students are cautioned that, in conducting their research, they should prepare their notes by (a) either quoting material exactly (using quotation marks) at the time they take notes from a source; or (b) departing completely from the language used in the source, putting the material into their own words. In this way, when the material is used in the paper or project, the student can avoid plagiarism resulting from verbatim use of notes. Both quoted and paraphrased materials must be given proper citations.

Definition of Cheating

Cheating is defined as the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain or aiding another to obtain academic credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive or fraudulent means. Examples of cheating during an examination include, but are not limited to, the following: copying, either in part or in whole, from another's test or examination; discussion of answers or ideas relating to the answers on an examination or test unless such discussion is specifically authorized by the instructor; giving or receiving copies of an examination without the permission of the instructor; using or displaying notes, cheat sheets, or other information or devices inappropriate to the prescribed test conditions, as when a test of competence includes a test of unassisted recall of information, skill, or procedure; allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the same. Also included are plagiarism as defined and altering or interfering with the grading procedures.

It is often appropriate for students to study together or to work in teams on projects. However, such students should be careful to avoid the use of unauthorized assistance, and to avoid any implication of cheating, by such means as sitting apart from one another in examinations, presenting the work in a manner which clearly indicates the effort of each individual, or such other method as is appropriate to the particular course.

Every instructor has the responsibility and authority for dealing with such instances of cheating and plagiarism as may occur in class. An instructor who determines that a student has cheated or plagiarized has a range of many available options which may be as severe as giving a student a failing grade for the course, if the assignment or test for which the student cheated or plagiarized is of sufficient weight to merit a failing grade for the course. The student may face a range of sanctions as stated in the college's Student Conduct Policy. Finally, it must be understood that a student who knowingly aids in another student's cheating or plagiarism e.g., permitting the other student to copy a paper or examination question, is as guilty as the other of the offense.

A student charged with cheating or plagiarism is entitled to appeal that charge by means of the college's Student Conduct Policies and Procedures.