

Psychology Department's Academic Integrity Policy

From the UNK Student Handbook (Section II Standards of Academic Integrity and Responsible Conduct, Section A): Students are expected to approach and complete their academic work with integrity. They are expected to do their own work, to be honest in the statements they make, to refrain from harming others, to refrain from improperly helping others, and to follow the rules. Students must read instructions and syllabi carefully so that they know what their instructors expect in terms of academic integrity. Any student found in violation of the standards of academic integrity may be subject to both academic and disciplinary sanctions. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication and falsification, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials and/or equipment, falsifying grade reports, misrepresentation to avoid academic work and other acts deemed unfair by the faculty member. For more information about these types of dishonesty, see

<https://catalog.unk.edu/undergraduate/academics/academic-regulations/academic-integrity-policy/>

Students who are suspected of violating any of these standards will be provided notice with notice of the alleged misconduct and asked to meet with the faculty member who has accused them. The faculty member shall explain to the student the basis for the suspicion of academic dishonesty (including but not limited to providing evidence of the behavior) and give the student an opportunity to explain the matter, including presenting any evidence on their behalf, satisfactorily.

If the student admits responsibility for the act of dishonesty or if the faculty member determines after hearing the student that the greater weight of the evidence supports a conclusion that the student committed an act of academic dishonesty, the faculty member may impose a sanction. If the faculty determines that imposition of only an academic sanction is appropriate, the faculty member will impose an academic sanction with the most extreme consequence being failure of the course.

The faculty member will also make a report in writing of the facts of the case and any academic sanction imposed, giving a copy of the report to the student. The faculty member will forward the report to the Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Student Life, via the Department Chair and Dean. The student may be subject to additional sanctions as set forth in the UNK Student Handbook through the office of Student Conduct.

In the Department of Psychology we take Academic Dishonesty very seriously. Minimally, your first offense will result in a 0 on the assignment, and the previously described report will be forwarded to the vice chancellor's office. Your name will then be placed on the department's secure list of academic violations. If there are multiple offenses within or across classes during your time at UNK, then the consequences will increase in severity. A second offense will result in failing the course. A third offense will result in the previously described sanctions and the student will not be issued a permit for Psy 495 Psychological Inquiry, the senior seminar course required to graduate with a degree in psychology.

Students may appeal determinations of academic dishonesty. To do so, the student should contact the chair of the department of psychology within seven (7) days of receipt of the faculty member's written report and decision. The department chair will then review the student appeal as well as information from the faculty member within seven 7 days of receipt. If the department chair agrees that the behavior is academic dishonesty, and the student wishes to appeal further they can use the existing process already implemented by the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) for appealing a grade. If the student appeal involves the department chair, then that appeal will go directly to the Dean of CAS for consideration.

Although detrimental across all classes, academic dishonesty is considered especially unethical in Psy 271 Research Methods II and Psy 495 Psychological Inquiry. Students creating research studies, collecting data and writing manuscripts are held to standards similar to those as outlined by the [American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct](#) (2017). The following items are particularly relevant:

5.01 Avoidance of False or Deceptive Statements;

(a) Public statements include but are not limited to paid or unpaid advertising, product endorsements, grant applications, licensing applications, other credentialing applications, brochures, printed matter, directory listings, personal resumes or curricula vitae, or comments for use in media such as print or electronic transmission, statements in legal proceedings, lectures and public oral presentations, and published materials. Psychologists do not knowingly make public statements that are false, deceptive, or fraudulent concerning their research, practice, or other work activities or those of persons or organizations with which they are affiliated.

(b) Psychologists do not make false, deceptive, or fraudulent statements concerning (1) their training, experience, or competence; (2) their academic degrees; (3) their credentials; (4) their institutional or association affiliations; (5) their services; (6) the scientific or clinical basis for, or results or degree of success of, their services; (7) their fees; or (8) their publications or research findings.

8.10 Reporting Research Results

(a) Psychologists do not fabricate data

(b) If psychologists discover significant errors in their published data, they take reasonable steps to correct such errors in a correction, retraction, erratum, or other appropriate publication means.

8.11 Plagiarism

Psychologists do not present portions of another's work or data as their own, even if the other work or data source is cited occasionally.

Although students in Psy 271 will be introduced to these additional criteria, they will still be subject to the consequences previously described in this policy especially in the case of multiple violations. Because students in Psy 495 Psychological Inquiry are expected to understand all of the previously defined academic standards, those who violate the academic integrity policy will receive an F in the course even if the violation is the first one in their Psychology major.