

***Integrity in
Scholarship:***

Resources on

Academic Misconduct for

Graduate Students

at the University of

Michigan



Rackham Graduate School

www.rackham.umich.edu

What is Academic Misconduct?

When asked this question, many students would say “cheating” and “plagiarism.” But this is only a part of the picture. As defined in the *The University of Michigan Standard Practice Guide*, academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- 1. Fabrication of Data:** dishonesty in reporting results, ranging from fabrication of data, improper adjustment of results, and gross negligence in collecting or analyzing data to selective reporting or omission of conflicting data for deceptive purposes;
- 2. Plagiarism:** taking credit for someone else’s work and ideas, stealing others’ results or methods, copying the writing of others without proper acknowledgment, or otherwise falsely taking credit for the work or ideas of another;
- 3. Abuse of Confidentiality:** taking or releasing the ideas or data of others which were shared with the legitimate expectation of confidentiality, e.g., stealing ideas from others’ grant proposals, award applications, or manuscripts for publication when one is a reviewer for granting agencies or journals;
- 4. Falsification in Research:** deliberately misrepresenting research, including the progress of research, to a research sponsor;

5. **Dishonesty in Publication:** knowingly publishing material that will mislead readers, e.g., misrepresenting data, particularly its originality, misrepresenting research progress, or adding the names of other authors without permission;
6. **Deliberate Violation of Regulations:** flagrant and repeated failure to adhere to or to receive the approval required for work under research regulations of Federal, State, local or University agencies, including, but not limited to, guidelines for the:
 - a. protection of human subjects
 - b. protection of animal subjects
 - c. use of recombinant DNA
 - d. use of radioactive material
 - e. use of hazardous chemicals or biologicals
 - f. conduct of classified research
7. **Property Violations:** stealing or destroying property of others, such as research papers, supplies, equipment, or products of research or scholarship;
8. **Failure to Report Observed Major Offenses:** covering up or otherwise failing to report major offenses or breaches of research ethics by others that one has observed;
9. **Retaliation:** taking punitive action against an individual for having reported alleged major offenses.

What is the University's stance on Academic Misconduct?

“Integrity in scholarship and teaching is a fundamental value upon which the University is founded...”

“...It is the shared responsibility of all members of our academic community to assure that misconduct in academic endeavors is dealt with in a timely and effective manner, and that the reputation of the University for high standards of scholarly integrity is preserved.”

-excerpted from *The University of Michigan Standard Practice Guide*, Number 303.3.

What is my Department's policy on Academic Misconduct?

“Most of the schools and colleges have written policies that delineate the conduct expected of their students and the consequences of failing to meet the expected standards. The policies are referred to by various names, including honor code, honor system, code of conduct, or grievance procedure...”

“...Faculty should obtain and read the applicable policy, or in the few instances where there is no written policy, discuss the standards and procedures with the appropriate dean. Students are also expected to read and understand their school or college policy.”

-from the *University of Michigan Faculty Handbook*, Chapter 8, Section 8.D.2.

What resources does the Rackham Graduate School offer for cases of academic misconduct?

The Rackham Graduate School's procedures for handling allegations of academic and professional misconduct are available at <http://www.rackham.umich.edu/StudentInfo/Publications/GSH/html/APPB.html>. This website includes examples of academic and professional misconduct.

If you have questions or concerns relating to academic or professional misconduct, contact the Rackham Resolution Officer at 734-647-7548. The Rackham Resolution Officer is available to meet with students who are experiencing a conflict, having a problem, or who are seeking advice about alternative resolutions. In addition to the Resolution Officer, there are several staff members at Rackham Graduate School who are available to meet with students.

What about Confidentiality?

Students can expect confidentiality in a safe environment when consulting with Rackham staff members. A student's identity and the information that is discussed will not be divulged without the student's prior consent. The staff acts only with the student's permission – except in the unusual situations of imminent risk of serious harm.

Where can I go for more information?

Rackham Student Handbook of Policies and Procedures

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/StudentInfo/Publications/GSH/html/contents.html>

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Honor Codes at the University of Michigan

<http://www.crlt.umich.edu/publinks/honor.html>

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Academic Integrity in the Classroom: A Selected List of Resources for the University of Michigan

<http://www.lib.umich.edu/acadintegrity/>

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University of Michigan Standard Practice Guide

<http://spg.umich.edu/pdf/303.03.pdf>

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University of Michigan Faculty Handbook

<http://www.provost.umich.edu/faculty/handbook/8/index.html>

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Center for Research on Learning and Teaching

www.crlt.umich.edu/publinks/acadintegrity.html

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Office of Student Conflict Resolution

<http://www.umich.edu/~oscr/index.htm>

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Rackham Resolution Officer

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/StudentInfo/advice.html>

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Office of the Ombuds

<http://www.umich.edu/~ombuds/>