

Communicating Academic Integrity

Empowering faculty to address academic integrity through preparation, constructive dialogues, and clear communication.



Why Address Academic Dishonesty?

Addressing academic dishonesty proactively fosters a culture of integrity, upholds academic standards, and ensures a fair learning environment for all students.

A 2020 Survey of 400+ faculty from 17 institutions found:

62%

Agreed academic dishonesty is a problem at their institution.

53%

Believed that academic dishonesty is more prevalent than in the past.

48%

Have ignored cases of academic dishonesty when the evidence was not conclusive.

How to Prepare for the Conversation?

01

Review your Test Instructions

Crafting clear, objective instructions should avoid ambiguity, as it can lead to confusion or complicate discussions with students.

Note: Ensure that expectations are clearly defined and communicated before the test. This includes specifying allowed resources, time limits, and any special requirements to minimize potential disputes and foster a fair testing environment.

02

Consider Disabilities

Evidence from proctoring software may suggest cheating, but "suspicious" behavior could stem from disabilities or accessibility needs.

03

Determine the Purpose of the Conversation

Establish a clear goal for the conversation, such as addressing flagged behaviors, assessing support needs, hearing the student's perspective, or explaining the next steps and consequences.

04

Notify Student by Email

Send the student an email notifying them that you need to meet with them because of concerns about potential academic misconduct.

How to Prepare for the Conversation?

01 *Start the Conversation*

Remember that the conversation is to address the situation, not to confront the student or debate about what's morally acceptable or what cheating is or isn't.

02 *Present the Evidence*

Be prepared to discuss how the proctoring solution works, especially related to the specific behavior you're addressing with the student.

03 *Get Their Explanation*

Give the student and opportunity to explain their situation. Remain neutral and calm during their recollection.

04 *Respond to Explanations*

Some students may accept responsibility. Some may flat-out deny cheating, even when there's clear video evidence from the proctoring platform. But some explanations may be plausible, so it's important to keep an open mind during these discussions.

05 *Address the integrity policy*

Unless their explanation resolves the situation, you should review your institution's policies for addressing acts of academic dishonesty, the next steps in the investigation and/or process, and the potential consequences for violations.

References

Stike, T. (2025). How to Talk to a Student About Cheating | Guide w/ Example. Honorlock Online Proctoring | Honorlock On-Demand Online Proctoring Services.
<https://honorlock.com/blog/how-to-talk-to-students-suspected-of-cheating/#starting-convo>

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Resources



Academic Misconduct Form



DLAI Homepage



Access to the Slide Deck

