

## Academic Integrity Online

*How to promote academic integrity in your online course?*

**TIP  
1**



State the academic integrity policy in your syllabus, and provide the link to The Mason Honor Code. Include course orientation activities to engage students with academic integrity policy and Honor Code.

**TIP  
2**



Design your online course to reduce pressure to cheat; include self assessments or low-stakes activities to test student understanding; pace the deadlines to keep student workload manageable; model academic integrity through your own postings & behavior.

**TIP  
3**



Consider using a series of scaffolded assignments that build toward a final paper or project, as an alternative to a midterm and final exam [i. e., objective tests] in your online course [Kelly, 2014].

**TIP  
4**



Use plagiarism detection tools [such as Blackboard SafeAssign] to check originality reports on student submissions. For more information, contact ITS Learning Support Services, Phone Support: [703] 993-8870; Walk-in Support: Johnson Center 311 CLUB; Email: [courses@gmu.edu](mailto:courses@gmu.edu).



**Promote academic integrity in your online courses, by thoughtfully revising and refreshing course assignments each semester.**

### Use A Multi-Layered Approach for Academic Integrity

- Design syllabus, course content & assessments, to stress importance of academic honesty.
- Communicate clearly and often with students during the course.
- Monitor and track student work carefully.
- Rework and revise your online course each semester.

[Christie, 2003]

### Academic Integrity Module for Blackboard



The Office of Academic Integrity invites you to use the Blackboard Academic Integrity Module and Honor Quiz developed here at Mason. It reviews the honor code at Mason and definitions around common integrity concerns, and it includes a quiz that allows students to apply what they have learned about the honor code to some scenarios.

If you are interested in using this quiz for your course, please contact Director LaShonda Anthony in the Office of Academic Integrity at [oi@gmu.edu](mailto:oi@gmu.edu).

# Best Practices from Mason's Online Faculty

*What strategies do you use to promote academic integrity in your online course?*

## Contact Office of Academic Integrity with Questions or Concerns

"It is important to include a statement about Academic Integrity and the Mason Honor Code on your syllabus. Sample language can be found at our website (<https://oai.gmu.edu/>).

Remember that all suspected incidents must be forwarded to the Office of Academic Integrity for review. However, it is up to the professor to determine if the issue is truly academic dishonesty or a "teachable moment".

If an incident is reported during a time when grades are due, report a grade of "HC" in Patriot Web.

If you have questions, feel free to consult with our office."

- LaShonda Anthony, Ph.D.  
Director, Academic Integrity  
Phone: 703-993-6209  
Email: [oai@gmu.edu](mailto:oai@gmu.edu)

## Promote Academic Integrity through Course Design

"In addition to the usual "policing" strategies, instructors can promote academic integrity through their course design. The goal is to reduce the incentive to cheat by promoting student motivation and engagement. Frequent, low-stakes assessments ensure that students are making steady progress through the course and help students build confidence in their learning. Dropping the lowest exam grade and/or allowing them to make corrections for half-credit back reduces the pressure on students. Finally, small group or class discussions of "real world" issues builds a sense of community that may further de-incentivize academic dishonesty."

-Jennifer Brielmaier, Ph.D.,  
Assistant Professor,  
Psychology/Neuroscience (CHSS)

## Talk about Source Integration

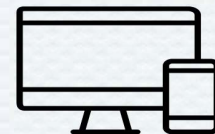
"When instructors talk about academic integrity, it is helpful if they also talk about source integration.

Here are some questions for instructors to answer for themselves and then discuss with students:

- How did you learn to integrate sourced material in your writing?
- What caused you to learn strategies for source integration?
- What have been some of the effects of having learned to integrate sources?"

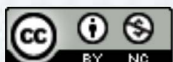
-Karyn Kessler, Ph.D., Associate Director, Curriculum and Instruction, Term Assistant Professor, ESL/Applied Linguistics, INTO Mason Global Center

### Learn More!



Christie, B. 2003. Designing online courses to discourage dishonesty. The EDUCAUSE Quarterly. 26 (4): 54 - 58. Retrieved from: <https://www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/eqm0348.pdf>

Kelly, R. 2014. Promoting academic integrity in the online classroom. Faculty Focus. Magna Publications. Retrieved from: <http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/online-education/promoting-academic-integrity-online-classroom/>



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