Student Rights and Conduct

The University has policies on students’ right and conduct, which are contained in the "Student Conduct/Policies" section of the Student Handbook.

a. Student Rights
Student rights include basic First Amendment rights (e.g., freedom of expression, right of assembly, freedom of association), the right to distribute literature on campus, the right to due process in any disciplinary proceeding, and the right to freedom from discrimination and sexual harassment. Students are also protected from improper disclosure of their records. Personally identifiable information contained in student educational records can be released or open to inspection only to the student or the parents of dependent students (as defined by the IRS) or in response to a served subpoena or court order. Parents of dependent students as defined in section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 also retain this right. Parents, students and former students who request to review any records, files, or document related directly to the student should be referred to the University Office of the Registrar or the Office of General Counsel (if you receive a subpoena or court order).

Students are responsible for learning course content, but they have the right to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in the classroom. They also have the right to expect that the course description will reflect actual course content, to receive a written syllabus for each course, either printed or online, and to be informed of the standards on which evaluation will be based.

b. Student Conduct Code
The University Standards of Student Conduct address three major areas of moral integrity that constitute the conduct code all students are required to observe – academic honesty, respect for the law, and respect for people. This code is described in detail in the Student Handbook. University policies outline acts of student misconduct which are expressly prohibited and violate University policy. These include such actions as: disruptive conduct, theft or unauthorized possession, vandalism, hazing, falsification of records, harassment, and assault.

Alleged violations of the conduct code must be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, where they must be handled in accordance with University judicial procedures. Faculty, staff, or students may make referrals to the Office of Student Conduct. Any person filing a charge must be willing to participate in a formal hearing on the matter; failure to do so may result in the charge(s) being dropped.

Once a student has been charged with a code violation, he/she has two options: 1) a formal hearing or 2) an informal hearing.
The format for the hearings, the appeals procedures, and possible disciplinary sanctions are all outlined in the Student Handbook -- be sure to read this section very carefully as it is very important to understand this process.

c. Academic Misconduct
Academic misconduct is defined as the following intentional acts or omissions committed by an FIU student:

A. Cheating: The unauthorized use of books, notes, aids, electronic sources; or unauthorized use of on-line exams, library materials or assistance from another person with respect to examinations, course assignments, field service reports, class recitations; or the unauthorized possession of examination papers (or on-line examination) or course materials, whether originally authorized or not. Any student helping another cheat may be found guilty of academic misconduct.

B. Plagiarism: The deliberate use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is guilty of plagiarism. Any student helping another to plagiarize may be found guilty of academic misconduct.

C. Misrepresentation: Intentionally lying to a member of the faculty, staff, administration, or an outside agency to gain academic advantage for oneself or another, or to misrepresent or in other ways interfere with the investigation of a charge of academic misconduct.

D. Misuse of Computer Services: The unauthorized use of any computer, computer resource or computer project number, or the alteration or destruction of computerized information or files or unauthorized appropriation of another’s program(s)

E. Bribery: The offering of money or any item or service to a member of the faculty, staff, administration or any other person in order to commit academic misconduct.

F. Conspiracy and Collusion: The planning or acting with one or more fellow students, any member of the faculty, staff or administration, or any other person to commit any form of academic misconduct together.

G. Falsification of Records: The tampering with, or altering in any way any academic record used or maintained by the University.

H. Academic Dishonesty: In general, by any act or omission not specifically mentioned above and which is outside the customary scope of preparing and completing academic assignments and/or contrary to the above stated policies concerning academic integrity.

Charges of Academic Misconduct may be brought against a student (hereafter Charged Student) by a faculty member, a chair, or a dean (hereafter Complainant). Charges may be filed by the aforementioned persons on behalf of a staff person, another student, or a person not affiliated with the University, who reasonably believes that a student has committed academic misconduct.
The Complainant, who suspects academic misconduct, must meet with the student in order to inform him/her of the allegation(s), to provide any evidence, and to allow the student to respond, before either entering into an Informal Resolution, as described below, or filing the Complaint Form Alleging Academic Misconduct with the Faculty Fellow for Academic Integrity.

- **Undergraduate Academic Misconduct Policy (Compliance)**
- **Graduate Academic Misconduct Policy (Compliance)**
- **Academic Misconduct Procedures Flowchart ***useful resource***

These policies and procedures apply to both Undergraduate and Graduate students.

To view the full university policy, guidelines, and procedures for academic misconduct, please refer to the Student Handbook