

Grade Integrity Policy

UF course grades are expected to indicate that the identified student earned the grade in that course without cheating, plagiarism, or any other unfair, or unethical practices. However, according to the UF Academic Integrity Survey conducted in 2011,

- “Almost one-half the faculty respondents believe academic dishonesty is a significant problem at UF, particularly among undergraduates.”
- “While faculty believed academic integrity is valued by faculty in their college (84.2%), less than one-half reported either their college administration or the UF administration clearly communicated the importance of integrity to either faculty or students.”

This task force recommended that the university

- “Develop a set of core values, including “integrity,” that are held at a premium by the University of Florida and are readily available and visible through all appropriate communication venues.”

As part of the University’s efforts to address the perceived lack of communication and the task force’s recommendations, this policy establishes a minimum set of standards to reflect the university’s expectations regarding the integrity of course grades.

All Courses

UF course instructors must take reasonable steps to ensure that the grades are an accurate reflection of the student’s mastery of the subject and performance in the course. In recognition of the fact that grades take many different types of work product into account, such as team projects, class participation, online discussion boards, homework, papers, quizzes, and exams, some of which are done without any face-to-face supervision, proctoring, or cheating/plagiarism-detection analysis, it is important to have a policy that is flexible but at the same time provides a clear expectation of how to meet a minimum standard for the integrity of UF course grades. This policy covers all courses regardless of the format.

The term “assignment” here is used to cover all work which is graded and contributes to the final grade. In general, instructors are required to take reasonable steps to ensure the following:

- The identity of the student claiming credit for the assignment.
- The work that is graded is the student’s own work or, in the case of team projects, the students has contributed appropriately to its completion.

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- No student has an unfair advantage over other students by using outside assistance or tools not permitted under the rules of the assignment.

Undergraduate Courses

In recognition of the fact that many undergraduate courses include significant amounts of online work and/or have high enrollments, this policy requires that, for all undergraduate courses, except clinical courses, Individual Work, Independent Study, and Undergraduate Research courses:

- A minimum of 60% of the course grade must be determined from assignments that are either completed in a proctored environment, or from assignments that can be validated by the instructor's personal knowledge or by accepted cheating/anti-plagiarism tools such as "Turnitin".

This should not be taken to mean that 60% is the recommended threshold, it is only the bare minimum. It is intended to accommodate courses that include significant teamwork assignments, blog posts, discussion boards or participation points. Instructors should determine higher levels as appropriate for the course.

For instance, course grades that are entirely based on exams, quizzes, and homework assignments should have a higher threshold. An example of such a grading scheme is included for an online course.

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Example Grading Scheme for Exam-Based Course

Midterm 25% (proctored)

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Final Exam 30% (proctored)

Modular Quizzes 20% (10 quizzes; each 2%) (un-proctored)

The exams will be cumulative. Students are responsible for all of the information covered in the assigned text, any additional materials that are posted on the course website, articles and general knowledge through reading the news, and for any examples and/or current events discussions that take place in class. In order to maintain a high standard of academic integrity and assure that the value of your University of Florida degree is not compromised, all course exams are proctored.

There will be ten online quizzes (un-proctored) during the term each worth 2 points. The purpose of the quizzes is to encourage students to keep up with the material to be covered in the class and to reward those students who do. Each quiz will consist of ten questions randomly selected from a question bank. Students will access all quizzes through the assessments tool within Canvas. Quizzes will open and close at various dates throughout the term, and students may only participate within the “open” date range. The quizzes will be “locked down” on the closing date. The opening and closing dates for the quizzes appear within the Canvas calendar and within the tentative schedule at the end of this syllabus. Quizzes are timed events, but not restrictively so; students will have 2 hours to complete a quiz and submit it online. Although the Canvas system is supposed to automatically submit any of your work at the end of the two hours, I encourage all students to hit the finish button and submit your quiz attempt before the end of the two hours. When quizzes are submitted, students will receive immediate scoring and feedback in Canvas. Students will also be able to see any/all of their quiz grades using the “Grade Book” tool in Canvas.

Students may make three attempts on each quiz, but we encourage you to take some time between attempts. Each time a student re-takes a quiz, Canvas will provide a new random selection of quiz questions. There is no penalty for taking the quiz three times and Canvas will record the highest of the three quiz grades earned as the official quiz grade. If you are thrown out of the system for any reason, you should immediately log back in, since the quiz time continues to count down.