

Grade Integrity Policy

As the State of Florida flagship institution, a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), and one of the nation's premiere public universities, a University of Florida degree, certificate, or other credential is highly valued and sought. Our 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 policy seeks to address the perceived lack of communication on the value of integrity in just one area of the university. More generally, the Academic Integrity Task Force that conducted this survey 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."

This policy establishes a minimum set of standards to reflect the university's expectations regarding the integrity of course grades. It seeks to articulate the university's core values in this area to ensure understanding of and adherence to these values as the university grows in size, mission, and global significance.

For 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 develop 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.

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

For Undergraduate Courses

In recognition of the difficulty in ensuring all these conditions are met, especially for term papers, and online quizzes and exams, this policy recommends that, for all undergraduate courses, except Individual Work, Independent Study, and Undergraduate Research courses:

- A minimum of 50% of the course grade must be determined from assignments that are either completed in a proctored environment or are subject to cheating/anti-plagiarism analysis by an accepted tool such as Turnitin.

This should not be taken to mean that 50% is the recommended threshold, it is only the bare minimum. Instructors should determine higher levels as appropriate for the course.