



Policy title:

Academic Dishonesty

Issued (original policy date):

MM/DD/YYYY

Revised (date):

12/04/2025

Review date for this policy:

Policy status:

- ☐ New
- ☒ Revision
- ☐ Deletion
- ☐ Supersedes existing policy

Policy purpose/reason:

Colorado Mesa University (CMU) is committed to fostering an environment of academic integrity and honesty. The pursuit of knowledge and the development of intellectual skills are foundational to the University's mission. Academic dishonesty undermines these principles, devalues the work of honest students, and erodes the credibility of the University's degrees. This policy outlines the definition of academic dishonesty, the procedures for addressing alleged violations, and the range of consequences that may be imposed. All members of the CMU community – faculty, staff, and students – share the responsibility for upholding academic integrity.

Academic Affairs asked Faculty Senate to look into updates to CMU's current policy regarding Academic Dishonesty. There were three charges that were sent to the Academic Policies Committee, Administrative Suspension and Dismissal, Academic Dishonesty Sanctions, and Academic Dishonesty/Withdrawal policies. The current/existing policies do not adequately address various situations that have occurred due to Academic Dishonesty.

Effective date of policy:

(Note: Enter a date below only if the effective date is not next July 1)

MM/DD/YYYY

Click the check boxes to add information in the following categories:

- ☒ Background
- ☐ Definitions
- ☐ Full policy statement
- ☐ Exclusions or special circumstances
- ☐ Policy summary for catalog

Background:

The current Academic Dishonesty policy is limited in the sanctions available to Academic Affairs and does not adequately address students who drop or withdraw from a course to avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty. This has led to instances where repeated or egregious instances of academic dishonesty were unable to be addressed in a satisfactory manner

Are there any related documents?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Click the "Attachments" button with a paperclip icon at the bottom of the form to attach files. Include the file names in the appropriate boxes below.

Policies:

Academic Dishonesty Policy - Recommendation.pdf

Forms:

Other:

Does this policy have an expiration date?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Approved by (signatures as applicable):

APC Chair

Date

Jeremy Bergen

12/5/2025

Faculty Senate President

Date

Stephen Merino

12/5/2025

Provost for Academic Affairs

Date

Jeremy Hawkins

4/15/2026

Board of Trustees

Date

Approved August 13-14, 2026 by Board of Trustee

Enter name here

Colorado Mesa University Academic Dishonesty Policy

I. Definition of Academic Dishonesty

The protection of academic integrity requires clear and consistent standards and definitions, as well as confrontation and sanctions when individuals intentionally violate those standards. The most important of the definitions is that of academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty undermines the educational experience, lowers morale by engendering a skeptical attitude about the quality of education, and negatively affects the relationship between students and faculty. Academic dishonesty is the intentional act of fraud in an academic environment/situation/exercise.

Academic dishonesty includes, **but is not limited to:**

1. Forgery/fabrication/falsification/plagiarism of academic documents
2. Intentionally impeding or damaging the academic work of others
3. Assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty
4. Cheating in the classroom
5. Unauthorized use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) including but not limited to, ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and/or Grammarly.
6. Unauthorized attendance
7. Multiple submissions of the same material to two or more different classes, or to the same class taken at a different time, without the permission of all instructors involved
8. Unauthorized collaboration
9. Lying/misrepresentation/omission of information to obtain an unfair advantage in an academic environment/situation/exercise
10. Unauthorized use of materials or equipment to complete an academic requirement

As mentioned above, instances of academic dishonesty are **not limited** to the list of examples given above. Acts or omissions that violate honesty and integrity when it comes to academic work can fall under the umbrella of academic dishonesty as well.

II. Sanctions for Academic Dishonesty

Students who have been sanctioned as a result of academic dishonesty should understand that they have violated the Colorado Mesa University Code of Conduct and are subject to appropriate disciplinary actions under that Code which may include suspension or expulsion from Colorado Mesa University.

When acts of academic dishonesty occur, members of the academic community must understand and investigate to determine the facts and, if there has been academic

dishonesty, decide on the degree of dishonesty and the sanction(s) that should be imposed.

Faculty members have the authority to impose sanctions for academic dishonesty and have the leeway to handle such incidents as they see fit; they are not required to involve parties other than the offender(s). In academic programs with professional standards and/or external accreditation, additional sanctions may be possible and outlined in the respective academic program handbooks.

Sanctions are determined based on the severity of the violation, the student's prior record, and the specific context of the case. Faculty discretion is supported within an equitable framework, and all actions must align with university reporting and procedural standards.

A. Tiered Sanction Framework

Nothing in the policy shall be construed to limit the right of the Office of Academic Affairs to impose any form of discipline on a student without a prior violation, including suspension or expulsion. Generally, the order of recommended sanctions is as follows:

First Violation

Sanctions for a first violation are determined by the individual faculty member and/or the Office of Academic Affairs. Faculty may apply one or more of the following sanctions:

- **Faculty Warning**
- **Grade Reduction for Assignment:** A deduction in the grade for the specific assignment or assessment, including a grade of zero or "F".
- **Final Course Grade Reduction:** A deduction in the final grade for the course. This may include a reduction of an entire letter grade (e.g., from an 'A' to a 'B') or can include a final grade of 'F' in the course
- **Denial of Access to Internships or Research Programs**
- **Disciplinary:** The Office of Academic Affairs will submit a formal university-level warning with potential future consequences for additional violations.

Second (and subsequent) Violations

In addition to a faculty member's sanction, the Office of Academic Affairs may also impose a sanction appropriate to the nature of the violation, which may include, but is not limited to:

- **Administrative Review:** Formal meeting with the Office of Academic Affairs

- **Automatic Failure in the Course:** A final grade of "F" in the course where the violation occurred.
- **Transcript Notation:** The Office of Academic Affairs may, after discussion with the Academic Department, make a recommendation to the Registrar's Office to assign a notation on the transcript to make the grade ineligible for grade replacement.
- **Educational Sanction:** Completion of online academic integrity D2L modules developed by Academic Affairs or other reflective academic activity as appropriate.
- **Suspension from the University:** Temporary removal for a defined academic period, after due process.
- **Expulsion:** Permanent dismissal from the University for repeated and/or serious violations.

B. Egregious Violations

In cases involving especially severe misconduct (e.g., falsifying data for publication, contract cheating, selling academic work, etc.), the University reserves the right to impose advanced sanctions, such as course failure, suspension, or expulsion, even for a first offense, depending on the circumstances.

C. Drop/Withdrawal Policy

If the student is assigned a grade of 'F' for the course due to an academic dishonesty violation, the student may not drop or withdraw from the course. The Office of Academic Affairs may, after discussion with the Academic Department, make a recommendation to the Registrar's Office to assign a notation on the transcript to make the grade ineligible for grade replacement.

III. Reporting Procedure for Faculty

Faculty are strongly encouraged to document and report academic dishonesty to the Office of Academic Affairs as soon as possible to ensure institutional tracking and due process for students. All confirmed offenses, regardless of severity, should be reported using the "Report of Academic Dishonesty eForm" from the website of the Office of Academic Affairs. This eForm will require the following information:

- Term & Course
- Name of Student Involved
- Student Email
- Student ID

- Brief description of incident (including the date and time of the incident)
- Resolution/action taken and date
- Date and means of notification (i.e., personal meeting, email, phone call, etc.) for student
- Is the student a student athlete?

The Academic Department Head and the Office of Academic Affairs are notified when the “Report of Academic Dishonesty eForm” is submitted by the faculty. For student athletes, the Head Compliance Officer will also be notified. Academic Affairs Office will keep these reports on file. The purpose of the file is to determine whether a student, reported for academic dishonesty, has committed comparable infractions in another class or classes during their academic career. Egregious or multiple offenses may result in further disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students have the right to appeal decisions against them. If the matter was handled between student and professor alone, the student can direct an appeal to the Academic Department Head. If the matter was handled by an Academic Dishonesty Committee, the appeal is directed to the provost.

IV. Reporting Procedure for Students

Students who observe or believe that there is academic dishonesty in a course may file a written complaint with the faculty member for that course. In instances when this is not possible or the faculty response does not resolve actions that are deemed to involve academic dishonesty, the written complaint should be then filed with the faculty member’s Academic Department Head.

In instances when actions that involve academic dishonesty cannot be resolved within the appropriate department, the written complaint should be directed to the Academic Dishonesty Committee. The point of contact for that complaint is the Assistant Vice President for Student Success.

V. Appeal Procedure for Sanctions for Academic Dishonesty

Students have the right to appeal sanctions for academic dishonesty made against them. Students who engage in the appeals process should direct communication to the appropriate level of appeal as outlined below. Students are not allowed to continue to negotiate with the lower level of appeals as those options have been exhausted.

Step 1 – Instructor Level: Meet with the Instructor

It is always best to try to resolve the dispute at the lowest possible level. The student is encouraged to discuss the incident with the course instructor to reach a resolution (For example, it is possible that the situation was misunderstood, in which case the instructor can rectify the error). If the issue is not one of misunderstanding, then the student must direct their appeal in writing to the instructor/faculty member who imposed the sanction. The student has two (2) weeks, from the date the sanction was imposed, to submit a

formal written appeal to the instructor. Once the instructor has received the written appeal from the student the instructor must respond in writing to the student, within one week, as to their final decision.

The written appeal must include:

1. A description of the incident;
2. A description of what occurred during the informal resolution process;
3. Any relevant documents the student would like to be reviewed as part of the appeal process.

Step 2 – Academic Department Head (or designee) Level: Meet with the Academic Department Head (or designee)

If the student is dissatisfied with the instructor's written response, the student may appeal in writing to the Academic Department Head within one week of receiving the instructor's response. If the student is initially unwilling to approach the instructor, the student may appeal the sanction directly to the Academic Department Head in writing, within two weeks of the date the sanction was imposed by the instructor. The Academic Department Head will serve as a mediator between the instructor and the student to resolve the dispute, conduct an investigation and make a recommendation based upon mediation. The Academic Department Head will respond to the student in writing, in a timely manner, regarding the outcome of the investigation and any determination made.

Step 3 – Academic Dishonesty Committee: Meet with the Academic Dishonesty Committee

When the decision regarding the appeal is not resolved to the satisfaction of either the student or the instructor, at the department head level, either the student or the instructor may appeal in writing to the Academic Dishonesty Committee (ADC). The committee's purpose is to protect the rights of both the student and instructor when such situations arise. The point of contact for that complaint is the Assistant Vice President for Student Success.

To conduct an appeal to the ADC, the student or instructor must submit their case in writing to the Assistant Vice President for Student Success who serves as chair of the ADC, within six (6) weeks of the initial sanction. The ADC will consist of the chair and three members of the University's faculty. In addition, a request will be made for a student representative to be appointed by the Associated Student Government (ASG). No later than two additional calendar weeks from the filing of the appeal, a hearing will be convened that includes the student, the instructor, and the authority to whom the appeal was subsequently directed. All materials reviewed by the ADC are protected, where appropriate, by Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations.

When cases occur during summer or the January Term, the ADC will consist of three faculty members at-large. The committee can rule as to the gravity of the incident and the corresponding degree of sanction. Penalties up to and including expulsion or suspension of the student from the University may be imposed.

A decision will be issued, in writing to the student, instructor, and Academic Department Head no later than one calendar week from the date of the final or concluding hearing/meeting of the ADC. Note: This timeline may be subject to change should the procedure, or a portion thereof, include school breaks or times during which the University is responding to a large-scale threat such as a public health issue. That said, the intent of the University is always to reach a decision in as timely a manner as possible.

Step 4 – The Provost Level

In instances when the ADC issues a ruling or additional sanction, that the student or instructor wishes to further appeal, the request should be directed in writing, to the provost. The student or instructor, who wishes to have an appeal considered by the provost must submit an appeal within one calendar week following the decision of the ADC. There is no appeal process beyond the level of the provost. The determination of the provost is final.

Package History

Date	User	Ip Address	Action
12/5/2025 12:19:02 PM	Bergen, Jeremy		Added attachment 'Academic%20Dishonesty%20Policy%20-%20Recommendation.pdf'
12/5/2025 12:19:02 PM	Bergen, Jeremy		Submitted 'AA - Policy Creation/Update'
12/5/2025 12:19:03 PM	APC Chair		Received
12/5/2025 12:20:57 PM	Bergen, Jeremy		Decision Approved on step 'APC Chair'
12/5/2025 12:21:03 PM	Faculty Senate President		Received
12/5/2025 12:30:48 PM	Merino, Stephen		Decision Approved on step 'Faculty Senate President'
12/5/2025 12:30:49 PM	Provost AA		Received
4/15/2026 4:28:38 PM	Hawkins, Jeremy	63.238.225.59	Decision Approved on step 'Provost AA'
4/15/2026 4:28:58 PM	President		Received
7/16/2026 7:12:55 AM	Altman, Logan		Reassigned 'Policy Creation/Update - Academic Dishonesty' to Altman, Logan. Reason: Obtaining copy of document.
7/16/2026 7:17:35 AM	Altman, Logan		Reassigned 'Policy Creation/Update - Academic Dishonesty' to President. Reason: Moving back after obtaining a copy of the document.
9/23/2026 7:22:33 AM	Raimer, Wyatt		Moved by Raimer, Wyatt from step 'President' to step 'Export End'. Reason: Per Michelle Sunkel, these forms are to be completed by her based on the BOT meeting minutes.
9/23/2026 7:22:33 AM	Raimer, Wyatt		Workflow Ended