

Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity*

The idea of Academic Integrity incorporates many aspects of academic life. Integrity requires a strong foundation in some basic values that carry through not only academic life, but every aspect of our society.



* This statement has been taken, with permission, from the Truth in Education web site at the University of Alberta (www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/). It is based on the Fundamental Values Project of the Centre for Academic Integrity (www.academicintegrity.org).

Honesty

Be authentic when writing exams, assignments and term papers. Honesty comes out in everything you do, not just your school work.

Trust

Let your instructors know they can trust you to do the right thing. Instructors should also let you know that you can trust them to uphold the values of academic honesty. Of course, the way to do that is to be honest. Consistent honesty creates trust, and a little trust goes a long way.

Fairness

You can expect fair treatment from your instructors, but you must also treat your peers fairly by doing your own work. Apply the “golden rule” here — would you want your peers to cheat you by gaining unfair academic advantage in the class?

Respect

Show respect by giving credit where credit is due. Cite all sources properly, and acknowledge those authors who have helped you in your research. People will treat you with respect when they see that you are respectful of them. It's contagious!

Responsibility

Imagine how different the world would be if we all took the small step of being responsible and accountable for our own actions. After all, we're all responsible for the academic climate of Vancouver Island University.



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