

# ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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## *What is Academic Integrity?*

Academic integrity is a dimension of your personal character. In an academic setting, your integrity is reflected in your behavior—in and out of the classroom. You must demonstrate your integrity in written assignments as well as discussions, on exams as well as punctuality. Academic integrity is demonstrated by your honest effort to meet your responsibilities.

Knowledge in a discipline is cumulative, yet no one can learn everything. That's why we must rely on the information gathered by others, and subsequently, must honor their intellectual property by citing it. This is true for you as well as professors.

## *What is intellectual property?*

Intellectual property is a creation of the intellect that has commercial or copyright value. To use another's intellectual property without proper credit is to commit plagiarism.

## *What is plagiarism?*

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's writing as one's own. In the case of copyrighted work, plagiarism is illegal.

## *When do you need to use citations?*

- ✦ When **quoting**
- ✦ When **paraphrasing** someone else's ideas
- ✦ When using a **statistic or direct fact**
- ✦ When you are using someone else's work as a **theoretical framework / interpretive lens**
- ✦ When you are relying upon **data collected by someone else**
- ✦ When you are relying upon **opinions or interpretations articulated by someone else**
- ✦ It will strengthen your case if you support any **key assertions** with citations to show support amongst experts for accepting the validity of those assertions

## *When do you not need to use citations?*

- ✦ When stating **common knowledge** (knowledge that can be found in many sources OTHER than those in the bibliography). If you aren't sure that something is common knowledge, it probably isn't.
- ✦ When the **ideas, opinions, interpretations are your own**, (although it strengthens your case if you are able to cite others who would agree with you or whose work leads to similar conclusions).

