

Transcript: Introduction to Academic Integrity

Academic integrity refers to the values of honesty, accountability, fairness, and respect that are at the heart of knowledge creation and academic inquiry at UNB. All students, staff, and faculty are expected to apply these values in their activities at UNB and to practice ethical behaviour in their broader academic and scientific communities.

Cultivating ethical behavior in your work at UNB helps you meet UNB's standards of conduct but also prepares you for professional life upon graduation. Employers will not only expect you to demonstrate concrete skills, such as critical reasoning and oral expression, but also ethical judgment and behaviour.

Beyond UNB, the core values of honesty and accountability inform research and publishing standards at universities and academic institutions across the globe. These same values of honesty and accountability are also essential for real-life innovation and industry practice. For instance, effective delivery of medical treatments, safe construction of roads and bridges, environmentally sustainable agricultural techniques, efficient water and sewer infrastructure, and many other essential industries and services all depend on honesty and accountability in research.

Self-reflection Question

How will honesty and accountability be important in your chosen future career?

Understanding what academic misconduct is and knowing how to avoid it are fundamental for being a successful student. At UNB, Section VIII of your undergraduate calendar, called [University Wide Academic Regulations](#), provides definitions of and penalties for academic offences. Examples of academic misconduct include: plagiarism, cheating on examinations, tests or assignments, and falsifying academic documents.

In this video, we will focus on defining plagiarism while another video will explain how you can avoid it and use sources with integrity.

UNB's [University Wide Academic Regulations](#) define plagiarism as:

- “quoting verbatim or almost verbatim from any source, regardless of format, without acknowledgement;
- adopting someone else's line of thought, argument, arrangement, or supporting evidence (such as, statistics, bibliographies, etc.) without indicating such dependence;
- submitting someone else's work, in whatever form (essay, film, workbook, artwork, computer materials, etc.) without acknowledgement;
- knowingly representing as one's own work any idea of another” (UNB Senate and Board of Governors, n.d., part VIII, section A).

The regulations also prohibit resubmitting for credit your own work that has already been used in another course, which is a form of self-plagiarism. An example of self-plagiarism, from the University Wide Academic Regulations, includes

- “submitting identical or substantially similar work for one course or program of study, which has been or is being submitted for another course or program of study, without the prior express knowledge and approval of the instructors” (UNB Senate and Board of Governors, n.d., part VIII, section B).

The act of citing means formally giving credit to authors or creators whose work and ideas you have borrowed. You can think of citing as a means to enter the broader academic conversation in your area of study. By “broader academic conversation” we mean the intellectual process where you synthesize, build on, and respond to the ideas of others and share with your instructors and classmates.

Including citations in your work matters because citations

- show that you are informed about your topic,
- distinguish your work and ideas from the works of others,
- help the reader locate your sources, and
- help you use sources with integrity by giving credit where credit is due.

Self-reflection Question

Why is it important to give credit when utilizing someone’s work and ideas?

Useful Contacts

Student Advocate, STAFFAIR@unb.ca

Research Help Desk, Harriet Irving Library, askus@unb.ca

The Writing and Study Skills Centre

- Fredericton, WSS@unb.ca
- Saint John, unbsjwritingcentre@unb.ca

References

UNB Senate and Board of Governors Fredericton and Saint John. (n.d.). *University wide academic regulations*. Retrieved March 14, 2017, from <http://www.unb.ca/academics/calendar/undergraduate/current/regulations/universitywideacademicregulations/>