

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Biology Department Statement on Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

We expect our students to conduct themselves with honor and integrity at all times. This includes, but is not limited to, respecting your instructors and fellow students in your comportment and behavior, as well as respecting their intellectual accomplishments and contributions to your own academic work. We define academic dishonesty as any act or intention to deceive any member of the Department as to the source of your ideas when submitting any work for a grade. During tests or exams this includes failure to abide by any test-taking condition (written, audiovisual or verbal) established by the course instructor. Unless explicitly stated otherwise, it will be understood that the use of "crib sheets", copying from other students, and any use of notes, books, electronic aids or other reference materials is prohibited while taking any quiz or test in any Department course. The Lafayette Student Handbook offers a more detailed discussion of academic honesty, including the procedures followed in cases of academic dishonesty and the possible penalties arising from it.

Our insistence on academic honesty extends from traditional writing (including laboratory reports) through artwork, electronic projects, or oral presentations which you submit for a grade. Students are cautioned to be particularly vigilant against plagiarism, which is a frequent form of academic dishonesty. The Lafayette Student Handbook includes an extensive section on plagiarism and we encourage you to become familiar with this material. Among the most common, but no less serious, forms of plagiarism is re-writing someone else's work without crediting the original author. Rewording a passage from another source and failing to cite that source is a form of plagiarism and will be treated as a breach of academic honesty. In crediting the work of others, all sources are treated as equal: you must cite material produced by other students, material found in the primary or secondary literature, course handouts, and any material obtained from the Internet. Individual instructors may establish more comprehensive guidelines within their respective courses; you are responsible for knowing and understanding any such rules for courses in which you are enrolled.

If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty in general or in a specific situation, it is your responsibility to discuss the matter with your instructor.

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