UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HONOR CODE’S GUIDE TO PREVENTION OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Introduction:

As is the case among many institutions of higher education, academic dishonesty is a widespread problem at the University of Colorado. In particular, cheating and plagiarism pose serious threats to the credibility of our university and the quality of the degrees which we issue.

Prevention of Academic Dishonesty:

We at the Honor Code encourage the use of proactive measures to instill a sense of integrity in students and to prevent academic dishonesty. Below we have compiled a short list of simple tips that will help discourage plagiarism and cheating:

- One of the most effective ways of preventing academic dishonesty is to clearly inform students of your expectations and of university policies. We recommend having an explicit section in your syllabus that enumerates the possible academic sanctions for cheating and plagiarism, as well as mentioning the university’s Honor Code policy verbally before examinations.

Plagiarism:

- Careful and specific creation of writing assignments can prevent plagiarism. Assigning topics specific to assigned readings or discussions that have occurred in class reduces instances of plagiarism and makes plagiarized material more readily apparent.
- Additionally, requiring drafts, outlines, and/or annotated bibliographies before the paper is due helps assure individual work and accurate citations while increasing teacher-student dialogue.

Cheating:

- When space permits, seat students in every other chair.
- Create multiple versions of exams, and verbally notify students of this before distributing the test forms.
- Have an adequate number of proctors circulating lecture halls during exams. This will allow for students to ask any questions and will discourage cheating.
- Collect and randomly redistribute blue books before tests to prevent fraud.

In addition to these methods we encourage faculty to clearly communicate the importance of academic integrity and its role within the university. The expansion of the dialogue on academic integrity within the university will hopefully foster a culture of mutual trust, respect, and learning.

Conclusion:

We appreciate your dedication to promoting an atmosphere of academic integrity here at the University of Colorado. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the Honor Code please contact Megan Petersen, Director of Faculty Relations at honor@colorado.edu or by phone at 303.735.2273.

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