STUDENT VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: CAUSES, FORMS OF DISHONESTY, DETECTION, PREVENTION/CONTROL, PUNITIVE SANCTIONS, AND LEGAL ISSUES


ABSTRACT

Student dishonesty is relatively common in universities (and in high schools as well). Educators at all levels are showing increasing concern about the phenomenon of student cheating. The various causes of student cheating stem from the erosion of ethics in all sectors of the culture including government, business, law, religion, education, family, and media. Some student dishonesty is the result of stringent competition within the academic environment. Academic dishonesty also stems from the lackadaisical attitude of professors toward cheating and an absence of meaningful negative consequences for cheating. The numerous (and often creative) forms of cheating are known (albeit not to every professor). Being aware of the various ways in which students cheat can assist educators in the prevention (or reduction of frequency) of cheating. There are simple techniques that can be used to prevent, detect, and control cheating in its various forms. Punitive sanctions for violations of academic integrity must be related to the type and severity of the cheating offense. Punitive sanctions for cheating should be formalized in course syllabi and promulgated by the university to students. Legal ramifications of applying punitive sanctions to students who violate the university's or professor's codes of academic integrity have certain potential for legal ramifications in the form of litigation.