

# PLAGIARISM TUTORIAL

*This tutorial has two parts: an explanation of the policies concerning academic honesty at Chico State, and a self-test. Please read over the policies very carefully before taking the self-test.*

## I. CSU Chico's policies on academic honesty

### A. An Overview of the policy of this Department

Plagiarism and cheating are grave violations of the academic integrity policy of the California State University, Chico. This policy (EM 04-36) is posted at [http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/EM04/em04\\_36.htm](http://www.csuchico.edu/prs/EMs/EM04/em04_36.htm). Students are required to take the Plagiarism Tutorial prepared by the Department of Religious Studies, which establishes the cornerstones of academic honesty, provides important definitions of cheating and plagiarism, gives examples of each, and requires the completion of a self-test on academic honesty. The Department of Religious Studies views plagiarism and cheating as serious offenses. The policy of the Department of Religious Studies is that anyone found to have blatantly cheated or plagiarized on an assignment will automatically fail the course and be referred to student judicial affairs for further disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

### B. General statement on academic honesty

Chico State has adopted the definition of academic honesty from the Center for Academic Integrity, which states that academic integrity is “a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action.”

Center for Academic Integrity. “Fundamental Values Project.” 23 March 2004 at <http://www.academicintegrity.org/fundamental.asp> and cited in California State University, Chico, “Proposed Academic Integrity Policy,” April 29, 2004.

Academic honesty is essential to the university community. Plagiarism and cheating are wrong in themselves because they violate self-respect, respect for your professors, and respect for your institution. The consequences of a culture of cheating are a decline in the reputation of the university, the value of its degrees, and its capacity to attract serious and able students.

### C. Definitions of Academic Dishonesty

1. Cheating: “Cheating is intentional fraud or deception for the purpose of improving a grade or obtaining course credit and includes all behavior intended to gain unearned academic advantage. Cheating includes either helping or attempting to help another person cheat.”

California State University, Chico, "Proposed Academic Integrity Policy," April 29, 2004.

2. Plagiarism: Using someone else's words or ideas without properly citing them is plagiarism. The CSU academic integrity policy distinguishes between misuse of sources and intentional plagiarism. If a student makes an attempt to "identify and credit his or her source," but does so improperly, he or she will not be penalized according to our policy. However, students should make every effort to learn the proper format for correctly citing sources, since this is an essential aspect of academic work.

Intentional plagiarism occurs when the student "deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common knowledge) material without acknowledging its source" and in so doing represents them as his or her own. This includes borrowing another's phrases or sentences without using quotation marks or citations; cutting and pasting whole paragraphs (or papers) from websites without acknowledgement; or borrowing ideas from someone without citing them.

Different disciplines and different professors may prefer specific citation formats; a general overview of the three most common formats may be found at <http://www.csuchico.edu/lref/newciting.html>

Council of Writing Program Administrators. "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices." *WPA Position Statements and Resolutions*. Jan 23. 12 February 2004  
<http://www.wpacouncil.org/positions/WPAplagiarism.pdf> Cited in California State University, Chico, "Proposed Academic Integrity Policy," April 29, 2004.

#### D. Examples of Cheating

- Copying from another student's test
- Allowing another student to copy from your test
- Using unauthorized notes or "crib sheets" during an exam
- Using your cell phone to text answers to other students during an exam
- Informing students in later sections of the contents of an exam
- Using unauthorized assistance in a take-home exam (e.g. working with another student when the instructor has not explicitly authorized it, or using reference works when that is not permitted by the instructor)

#### E. Examples of Plagiarism

- Downloading an entire paper or sections of a paper from a website without acknowledgement
- Copying sentences or paragraphs from a book or website without citing them, without using quotation marks when appropriate, or both
- Turning in a paper someone else has written
- Having someone else write a portion of your paper (even a sentence)

## F. Link to library page on citing sources

The library has established a web page devoted to different citation formats. It is available here: <http://www.csuchico.edu/lref/newciting.html> . There are also direct links to style pages for different citation formats at the University Writing Center page: <<http://www.csuchico.edu/uwc/students/index.html>>

## II. Self-test on academic honesty

### Section 1: True/False

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. If you use an internet source, you don't have to cite it.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. It is not necessary to cite facts which are common knowledge—e.g. that the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776, or that Lincoln was president during the U.S. Civil War.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. It is wrong to use another person's ideas when writing a research paper.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. It is only necessary to cite a source when you use more than a paragraph from it.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Plagiarism can result in a failing grade in a course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Working with another student on a take-home exam is permissible.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. There are occasionally circumstances under which it is okay to cite directly from the Web without footnoting or otherwise indicating your source.

## Section 2: Multiple Choice.

“When the tribes were forced from their aboriginal homelands and confined to small reservations, many of the tribal religious rituals were prohibited by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the 1870s and 1880s because of an inordinately large number of Christian zealots as Indian agents. Traditional people had to adopt various subterfuges so that their religious life could be continued. Some tribes shifted their ceremonial year to coincide with the whites’ holidays and conducted their most important rituals on national holidays and Christian feast days, explaining to curious whites that they were simply honoring George Washington and celebrating Christmas and Easter.” (Vine DeLoria, “Sacred Places and Moral Responsibility,” in Richard C. Foltz, ed., *Worldviews, Religion, and the Environment: A Global Anthology* [Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2003] 81).

**Which of the following violates established standards of academic integrity in the citation of the above paragraph?**

- a. When the tribes were forced from their homelands to reservations, many of the tribal religious rituals were prohibited by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the 1870s and 1880s because of Christian zealots. Some tribes shifted their ceremonial year to coincide with the whites’ holidays and conducted their most important rituals on national holidays and Christian feast days, explaining to curious whites that they were simply honoring George Washington and celebrating Christmas and Easter.
- b. In the 1870s and 1880s, when American Indians were confined to reservations, they were often unable to practice their religion “because of an inordinately large number of Christian zealots as Indian agents.” To get around these prohibitions, “tribes shifted their ceremonial year to coincide with the whites’ holidays and conducted their most important rituals on national holidays and Christian feast days, explaining to curious whites that they were simply honoring George Washington and celebrating Christmas and Easter” (DeLoria 81).
- c. When the tribes were forced onto reservations, many American Indian rituals were prohibited by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the 1870s and 1880s because of Christian prejudice. The tribes had to fool the BIA so that their religious life could be continued. For example, some tribes shifted their ceremonial year to coincide with the whites’ holidays (DeLoria 81).
- d. In the 1870s and 1880s, many American Indian tribes encountered prejudice from Christians, who included BIA leaders who wanted to stamp out their religious practices. In response, some tribes began celebrating their traditional rituals at the same time as Christian or civil holidays, so as to avoid persecution (DeLoria, 81).

Answers (choose only one)

- 1. a and c
- 2. a, c, and d
- 3. b and c

- 4. c and d
- 5. none of the above

When you have completed this quiz, please proceed to “Plagiarism Tutorial—Answers to Quiz” to check your answers.