Designing for Integrity Online: Tips for Instructors

Faculty can design coursework in a way that can not only be effective for academic integrity, but can also be effective pedagogically.

Students are known to cheat when:

• Grades ride on a single performance (one test, one project). Therefore, create several smaller opportunities for learning over time.

• Each grade is high stakes (one test is a significant portion of the grade). Again, if there are multiple assessments, each can be a smaller portion of the grade. No single assessment carries great weight.

• Students seek extrinsic motivation, like a grade or a degree, rather than enjoying the learning process itself. Be creative in allowing students to fulfill course requirements in ways that are meaningful to them.

• There are low expectations to pass, and they have little confidence in themselves. Utilize incremental learning opportunities to build their confidence and set high expectations.

• Students perceive others are cheating around them. Establish clear policy and reinforce throughout the semester.

“Dishonesty can help us learn how to become better teachers.”

(Lang, 2013)