ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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KILOHANA: THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER
WHAT IS ACADEMIC INTEGRITY?

Academic Integrity is a major concept in effect at all times while you are a student attending any academic institution. Academic integrity involves a set of expectations about your behavior as a student and as a member of the campus community.

The expectation is that all members of the campus community will carry out their work and activities without cheating.

Academic integrity is also specifically described in the UH Hilo Student Conduct Code. The Conduct Code is located here:

http://hilo.hawaii.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/student_conduct.php
WHY IS ACADEMIC INTEGRITY SO IMPORTANT?

The campus community which you are now a member of is a community based on trust.

The community members will take you at your word that the work you carry out is your own.

People in this community believe you conduct yourself with integrity. They do not assume the contrary unless you give them a reason to doubt your integrity.

Your work is assumed to be your own and that you did not cheat in any way to complete that work.
WHAT CONSTITUTES CHEATING?

The Student Conduct Code provides you with a number of examples which constitute cheating. All forms of cheating are a violation of academic integrity.

Familiar forms of cheating are:

• Copying another’s work
• Claiming another’s idea(s) and/or words as your own
• Making up data
• Cutting and pasting information from any document into your document without identifying where that information came from

There are many other examples of cheating, but all are wrong.
HOW DO I AVOID PLAGIARIZING?

The best way to minimize plagiarizing, intentionally and unintentionally, is to ask when you have questions about the information you are working with.

Asking questions when you are uncertain is especially critical when you are engaged in working on a research project or any assignment which requires you to gather information from sources other than just your knowledge and your first hand experience.

Your instructors and librarians are knowledgeable sources of information.

The peer mentors at the Kilohana Writing Center are also helpful sources of information.

The most important rule to follow is:

When in doubt, cite it!