“Rather fail with honor than succeed by fraud.” –Sophocles

“Knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful.”
–Samuel Johnson

“It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not deserve them.” –Mark Twain
It is the desire of Furman University to unite its members in a collective commitment to integrity. In so doing, Furman University strives to teach its members to live lives of humility, respect, and responsibility. Therefore, it is the expectation that all members of the Furman University community will conduct themselves with integrity in all endeavors. In honoring these values and ideals as Furman University’s foundation, it is with utmost faithfulness and dignity that I will subscribe to them.

—Furman Integrity Pledge

The Furman Integrity Pledge serves as the cornerstone of life in and out of the classroom at Furman. Within this framework, the healthy functioning of the undergraduate learning community depends upon the six fundamental values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and courage.* As an institution, Furman expects all members of its community to uphold and comply with the highest standards of academic conduct. Violations of the ethical standards of the institution will have severe consequences.

As a student at Furman, you have a serious responsibility to uphold academic integrity. First and foremost, you must behave honorably in your own academic work. This means you must be aware of what constitutes academic dishonesty (some examples are listed below). If you are unsure of what is required or is not allowed for a particular assignment, it is your responsibility to ask your instructor for clarification. If you have a doubt, ask. You should also carefully consult all the information found in the student section of the Academic Integrity website (furman.edu/integrity). Being informed is vital, since ignorance of what constitutes academic misconduct is not an acceptable defense for violating the community standard.

Additionally, you should commit yourself to promoting academic integrity among your peers. Set the standard for honesty and encourage others to do the same. If you suspect that a fellow student is cheating, you should notify your professor immediately.
Examples of Academic Misconduct
Below are some examples (not an exhaustive list) of academic misconduct. Remember to ask your course instructor to clarify what is permissible.

CHEATING
- Using unauthorized notes, study aids, or information from another student or student’s paper on an assignment or examination.
- Representing someone else’s work as your own.
- Fabricating or falsifying data.
- Turning in the same assignment in two different classes without the express permission of the instructor(s).

PLAGIARISM
- Representing someone else’s ideas, words, expression, statements, pictures, graphs, organizational structure, etc., as your own without proper acknowledgment or citation. Please note that this applies to material drawn from any source, including the Internet. You should consult with your instructor about the proper citation format for Internet sources.
- Copying word for word from another source without proper attribution.
- Paraphrasing another’s written ideas and presenting them as one’s own.

UNACCEPTABLE COLLABORATION
- Submitting as one’s own work the product of collaboration with another student or students.
- Working with other students on an assignment intended to be done individually.

FACILITATING MISCONDUCT
- Providing material or information (e.g., term papers, data, answers to questions, information about a test already taken) to another person, either deliberately or inadvertently, with the knowledge that these materials or information could be used improperly.

OTHER TYPES OF MISREPRESENTATION
- Falsifying one’s attendance at a Cultural Life Program event (see The Helmsman, “Administrative Policies”).
- Lying to a university official (instructor, administrator, staff member).
- Forging an official document.
Procedure for Suspected Violations of Academic Integrity

According to Furman’s policies on academic integrity, faculty who suspect that academic misconduct has occurred are required to investigate the matter and confront the student with the evidence. The student has two possible responses, as indicated on the “Academic Integrity Violation Form:” accept responsibility for the charge and accept the professor’s grade penalty in the course; or dispute the charge by requesting a hearing of the Academic Discipline Committee (ADC), a standing committee which conducts hearings with five faculty members and two students.

Penalties

Typical penalties for academic misconduct include a grade of “F” on the paper, test or assignment or a grade of “F” in the course, in accordance with the policies of the instructor or the department. All infractions, even those resolved between the faculty member and the student, must be reported to the Office of the Associate Academic Dean and reviewed by the ADC, which may in turn assess additional penalties, such as tutorials or revocation of pass-no pass status. In the case of multiple offenses, a hearing will always take place to consider suspension, expulsion, and/or other more severe sanctions.

Additional Information

More information about academic integrity at Furman, including a copy of Furman’s policies on academic integrity (121.5 and 190.6), may be found at furman.edu/integrity. Questions should be directed to the Associate Academic Dean (Admin. 206, x2064).