

## The Importance of “Academic Integrity” in the Light of ChatGPT and AI

Issues of academic integrity are diverse and surface all the time. In 2023, two major scandals rocked Harvard and Stanford. At Harvard, Professor Francesca Gino, a behavioural scientist specialised in how to reduce... dishonesty, was accused of data fraud, and producing experimental results that others have not been able to confirm.<sup>1</sup> At Stanford, university President Marc Tessier-Lavigne was forced to resign after revelations that he had published several papers using poor or manipulated data.<sup>2</sup> ChatGPT and AI reinforce the challenge of authenticating research and identifying researchers’ own work. They may also spread false information by “hallucinating”.

The video “[What is Academic Integrity?](#)” by the University of South Australia (23 March 2023) discusses the issue of academic integrity with students.

**Watch out for concepts like:** ethics, personal responsibility, honesty, creating your own work, submitting work of your own, relying on peers, creating something genuine, referencing, paraphrasing, “turn-it-in” software, rewarding, unfair, a big lie, savvy digital avenues, crucial for society, fingerprint.

Then match the words on the left with the definitions on the right in the two tables below. **This list was created on 8 October 2023 by GPT-4**, using the following **Prompt**: “What are the key considerations of academic integrity? List the 10 most usual concepts associated with this and define them.” (The answers are at the bottom of this page.)

**GPT-4:** *Academic integrity refers to the ethical code and moral principles associated with academia. Maintaining academic integrity ensures the authenticity of the learning process and the credibility of educational institutions. Here are the 10 most usual concepts associated with academic integrity, along with their definitions:*

**Table 1**

1. Plagiarism	a/ Engaging in deceptive practices to gain an unfair advantage in an academic setting. This can include copying answers, using unauthorized resources during exams, or submitting someone else's work as one's own.
2. Cheating	b/ Submitting the same work in more than one course without the consent of the course instructors. It's a form of self-plagiarism.
3. Fabrication	c/ Collaborating with others without permission when individual work is required. This can include letting someone copy your work or working together on an assignment meant to be completed individually.
4. Duplication	d/ Inventing or falsifying data, information, or citations in any academic work. This can include making up research results or misrepresenting sources.
5. Collusion	e/ The act of using someone else's work, ideas, or intellectual property (e.g., writing, images, or data) without proper acknowledgment. This misrepresentation implies the plagiarist's work is original when, in fact, it is borrowed.

**Table 2**

6. Ghostwriting	f/ Actively impeding another student's academic work or deliberately damaging their efforts, resources, or tools necessary for their academic success.
7. Sabotage	g/ Falsely claiming or exaggerating achievements, credentials, or other academic accomplishments. This can also include faking attendance or falsifying reasons for absences
8. Examination misconduct	h/ Allowing someone else to produce your work and then submitting that work under your own name.
9. Misrepresentation	i/ Engaging in any form of deceit during an examination, such as using unauthorized materials or devices, or copying from another student.
10. Failure to adhere to research ethics	j/ Ignoring established ethical guidelines in research, such as not obtaining proper permission to conduct research on human subjects, not treating animals ethically in experiments, or not disclosing conflicts of interest.

*Maintaining academic integrity requires understanding and adhering to these principles. Students and professionals alike are encouraged to seek guidance and clarification on these matters whenever in doubt.*

**Answers: Table 1** - 1e; 2a; 3d; 4b, 5c; **Table 2** – 6h; 7f; 8i; 9g; 10j.

<sup>1</sup> See for example, Noam Scheiber, “[The Harvard Professor and the Bloggers](#)”, *The New York Times*, October 2, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> These revelations were published by an 18-year-old student journalist, Theo Baker, in *The Stanford Daily*, PBS Newshour, “[Stanford president resigns after report on flawed research](#)”, July 20, 2023, available on YouTube.