

What is Academic Integrity?

In the broadest sense, academic integrity designates the system of professional values and ethical responsibilities that govern our research, writing, teaching, and collegial interactions in the university and the community. Academic integrity entails upholding professional standards of truthful and responsible conduct of research, honest and scrupulous acknowledgment of the work of others, and respectful and honest relationships with other professionals. To achieve excellence in scholarly and creative activity, research, and writing and to maintain public trust in the work performed at our university, it is important to create an environment that promotes and sustains academic integrity and the responsible conduct of research. Taking personal responsibility to uphold the standards of, and adhere to best practices in, academic integrity and the responsible conduct of research is essential to the academic, research, and creative enterprise in which we as partners at the university are engaged.

As stipulated in the UNM Catalog and [UNM Pathfinder](#), "Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters." Academic integrity includes, but is not limited to, honesty in quizzes, examinations, and assignments; properly acknowledging the work of others in papers, theses, and dissertations; and following ethical practices when conducting research. At stake is nothing less than public confidence in the research, writing, and creative work produced at the university. Thus, UNM expects all students, faculty and staff to follow the highest standards of ethical practice and academic integrity, and UNM "reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet these standards" (*Pathfinder*).

Academic integrity is often recognized in the breach, as in cases of cheating; plagiarism; fabricating or falsifying data; collaborating without authorization or misrepresenting one's contribution in group work; submitting false information in any form; or intentionally altering, impeding or destroying another person's work. Deliberately and knowingly abetting an act of academic dishonest or research misconduct, or failing to report an incident, also constitute violations of academic integrity.

To help the UNM community develop a culture of academic integrity, OGS in collaboration with the Dean of Students and the schools and colleges provide an Academic Integrity Tool Kit to provide some basic tips and strategies for faculty, staff and students.

Creating a Culture of Academic Integrity and Responsible Conduct of Research

Because principles of intellectual honesty and ethical conduct ground the scholarly enterprise, the University of New Mexico is committed to promoting and maintaining a culture of academic integrity. Working together, faculty, students, staff, and administrators can instill principles and practices of academic honesty and responsible conduct of research that are essential to our academic mission. Rather than recognize academic integrity in the breach, as is so often the case, we aim to instill a value for honesty, truth, and respect that will prevent breaches from occurring. Thus, in the Academic Integrity Tool Kit we list some strategies for faculty, students and staff to

value, achieve, and uphold the standards of academic integrity and the responsible conduct of research.

With regard to research, federal funding agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation require training in the Responsible Conduct of Research. Beginning in 2010, faculty researchers, post-docs, graduate students, and undergraduate students who apply for grants at these agencies must indicate in the body of the proposal a plan for providing responsible conduct of research (RCR). The UNM [Office for the Vice President for Research](#) (OVPR) has in place a [Scientific Integrity Plan](#) that serves as the institutional support for this requirement. The Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research program in collaboration with the Academic Integrity/Honesty initiatives across departments and colleges assist faculty, staff, students and administrators promote a culture of honesty and integrity at UNM.