

SCC VIRTUAL PREPARATORY ACADEMY
PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT
2024

FREE SPEECH/EXPRESSION

Philosophical Basis:

Citizens in our democracy are guaranteed self-expression under the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution of the United States; therefore, in a democratic society, one of the basic purposes of education is to prepare students for responsible self-expression.

Student Responsibilities are:

- To respect the rights of others and to express disagreement in a manner that does not infringe upon the rights of others and that does not interfere with the orderly educational process.
- To act in a manner that preserves the dignity of all persons.
- To plan for, seek approval of, and conduct activities which are consistent with the educational objectives of the school.

Student Rights are:

- To form and express viewpoints through speaking and writing in a manner which is not obscene, slanderous, libelous, or disruptive to the educational process.
- To affirm identity with the American ideals as are exemplified in the Constitution of the United States.
- To refrain from any activities that violate the precepts of their own religion.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Integrity means to integrate one's values and beliefs into every activity that is undertaken. The St. Clair County Virtual Preparatory Academy believes that honesty is right and that stealing and cheating are wrong. Academic integrity means doing one's own work to the best of one's ability, without the unauthorized help or assistance of someone else. Therefore, in an effort to foster academic integrity in all SCC Virtual Preparatory Academy students, this honor code has been created to help students recognize, understand, and practice ethical conduct with regard to their academic assignments.

There are various academic scenarios pertaining to the completion of academic assignments that would be considered unethical. These instances include but are not limited to the following:

- Cheating: copying another student's work; is inclusive of both giving and receiving information on an academic assignment.
- Plagiarism: defined as either the intentional or unintentional use of another person's words, ideas, or data without providing the proper acknowledgement of the source through quotations, references, or footnotes.
- Fabrication/Falsification: scenario in which one either invents or distorts the origin or content of information used as authority. This is inclusive of citing a source that does not exist, citing information from a source that does not actually contain the information that was cited, as well

as listing a bibliography source when the source was neither referenced nor cited in the assignment.

Generally, when academic assignments are made, the expectation is that each student will do their own work without the help or assistance of others. Exceptions to this expectation might include group projects in which the teacher authorized certain students to work together on a particular assignment. When instances of academic dishonesty have been discovered, typically, either reduced credit or possibly no credit (i.e., a “zero”) will be awarded. Further, instances of academic dishonesty will be documented in the student’s individual conduct file, and additional consequences may also be assigned as applicable to the particular incident.