



McKemy Academy of International Studies

Academic Integrity Policy

At McKemy Academy of International Studies (MAIS), we prioritize academic honesty as a core value, closely aligned with the traits emphasized in the IB Learner Profile. We believe that fostering integrity in our students helps them grow into principled individuals who act with honesty and take responsibility for their work. As knowledgeable learners, students are expected to submit work that is authentic, original, and fully acknowledges the ideas of others, demonstrating respect for intellectual property.

Being effective communicators is also key to academic honesty. Students must express their own thoughts clearly while recognizing the contributions of others, ensuring their work is an accurate reflection of their own learning and understanding. Moreover, as caring individuals, they are encouraged to act with compassion and respect, both in their collaboration with peers and in their academic endeavors.

Our teachers serve as role models in promoting these values, ensuring students are guided on the principles of academic honesty, including proper research techniques and the ethical creation of projects. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously, and we provide students with the necessary tools to avoid malpractice and uphold the values of honesty, integrity, and respect.

Definitions:

Academic Honesty is a set of values that promotes personal integrity and good practice in learning and assessment, and in the MYP is part of the Approaches to Learning. The IB recognizes that academic honesty is influenced by factors that include peer pressure, culture, parental expectations, role modeling and taught skills. Academic honesty can be demonstrated through the dynamic relationship between personal, social, and technical skills.

Guidance on Plagiarism vs. Collusion

Plagiarism involves taking someone else's work, ideas, or words and presenting them as one's own without proper acknowledgment. It is a serious form of academic malpractice. Examples of plagiarism include:

- Copying a friend's work and submitting it as one's own.
- Taking material from the Internet or other sources without giving credit through citations.
- Using sections from books, articles, or online sources without proper citation.

Plagiarism undermines learning and intellectual development.

Collusion, on the other hand, occurs when a student helps another commit plagiarism or malpractice. This includes:

- Allowing another student to copy one's work.
- Submitting work on behalf of another student.
- Sharing completed assignments with the intent of having it copied or misused.

Collusion is also a serious violation of academic honesty and is treated with the same gravity as plagiarism. Even though one may not have directly plagiarized, by enabling another student to do so, it compromises the integrity of one's own work and learning environment.

In both cases, it's important to act as principled learners, taking responsibility for one's own work and helping others maintain academic honesty.

Intellectual Property includes different forms of property rights, such as trademarks, copyrights, patents, and registered designs. Forms of intellectual and creative expression must be respected and are protected by law.

Use of AI in Academic Work:

The integration of AI tools in academic work is becoming increasingly common, and while these tools can be beneficial in supporting learning, it is essential that students use them responsibly. Students must ensure that any content generated by AI is used as a supplementary resource rather than being submitted as their own original work. When using AI-generated content, students must critically evaluate, refine, and properly attribute any material that informs their assignments. Submitting AI-generated work as one's own without proper attribution is considered a form of plagiarism and will be treated as academic dishonesty. Students are encouraged to consult their teachers if they are unsure about how to appropriately use AI tools in their work. (created by ChatGPT)

Role of Teachers:

A. Prevention

Teachers will provide each student with instructions for conventionally acknowledging all sources with an organized and consistent approach across all subject areas. Teachers will include as part of their instruction proper ways to express the work and ideas of others and warn students of the serious consequences of academic dishonesty. (See appendix A)

B. Detection and Reporting

Teachers are responsible for confirming to the best of their knowledge, that all student work received is authentic and original in its entirety. Teachers are encouraged to utilize online resources, such as Grammarly.com, that prevent plagiarism, and report violations of the policy to the Principal.

C. Support of Policy

Teachers are expected to support our Academic Honesty Policy and take action to prevent, detect, and investigate.

Role of Students:

Each student is fully responsible for ensuring that all of their work produced and submitted is authentic, and the work and ideas of others are fully and correctly acknowledged and cited.

Communication of Policy

McKemy Academy's Academic Honesty Policy shall be available to students, parents, and staff on our school website. Our Academic Honesty Policy will be communicated both orally and in writing at the beginning of the school year, and throughout the school year when students are assigned projects, reports, research projects, assignments.

Disciplinary Consequences of Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is regarded as academic theft and results in a zero grade award by the IB. If plagiarism occurs at school the teacher will inform the Principal and they will conference with the student on the paper/assignment in question. The teacher will notify the parents in writing of the incident.

After a student's work has been determined to be plagiarized, the Principal/Teacher may impose one or more of the following consequences:

- Resubmit the paper/assignment to be completed: The student will revise and resubmit a properly documented paper or assignment. We understand that younger students will make mistakes from time to time.
- No credit on the paper/assignment: The student will receive a zero on the paper or assignment.
- Probation: The student is placed on academic probation.

Appendix A: Examples of Citations using the Modern Language Association (MLA) format:

In-text Citation (for direct quotes): use quotation marks and include an in-text citation.

Example:

- "The universe is vast and full of mysteries" (Smith 45).

In-text Citation (for paraphrasing): restate someone else's ideas in one's own words)

Example:

- Smith argues that the universe contains numerous unexplored aspects (45).

Works Cited Entry (for a book): for every in-text citation, there should be a corresponding entry in the "Works Cited" section at the end of the document.

Example:

- Smith, John. *Exploring the Universe*. Oxford University Press, 2020.

Works Cited Entry (for an online article or webpage):

Example:

- Jones, Mary. "The Mysteries of Space Exploration." *Space and Science Daily*, 12 Feb. 2021, www.spaceandsciencedaily.com/articles/mysteries-of-space.

In-text Citation (for multiple authors): for more than one author, cite both names.

Example:

- "The discovery of new planets continues to challenge our understanding of space" (Brown and Taylor 78).

If there are more than three authors, list only the first author followed by "et al."

Example:

- "The research shows significant evidence of life-sustaining planets" (Parker et al. 105).

These examples help ensure that original authorship is acknowledged properly in academic work, preventing plagiarism.

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