**Walden’s Academic Integrity**

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The standard upheld for academic integrity at Walden University is exceptional in its clear demarcations of what is acceptable. There is a detailed account of academically outlawed behavior complete with definitions and descriptive passages which are all open for public assessment. (Walden, 2019) This expounds the fact that not only is Walden University specific about their policy on academic integrity, they are also open about it.

The first and foremost component of the university’s policy on academic integrity involves plagiarism. Although it goes without saying that the university does not tolerate plagiarism; their website clearly defines this term from a myriad of angles to rule out loopholes in their policy. Plagiarism therefore includes intentional as well as unintentional copying of work or ideas without proper citation of their source. University administration includes both types of plagiarism in their policy but differentiate in terms of the response both can garner. Intentional plagiarism marked by copying and pasting a bulk of written material without citation, changing a measly number of synonyms to make it look unique or buying/borrowing a paper from an original author and marketing it as their own. Unintentional plagiarism, on the other hand, is described differently in the university policy. It might include not citing yet paraphrasing the real author without touching their exact text. It also includes an exact copy of the author’s work but citing it as a paraphrase and not a quote. Its third form is intermittent citation missing the citation of some ideas borrowed from another author. Walden University synchronizes with the American Psychological Association (APA) style of citation and their definitions of plagiarized work.

The second malpractice that challenges academic integrity at Walden is cheating. The university management categorizes it with plagiarism as a serious breach of the code of conduct allowed and condoned at Walden University. Cheating in this context includes any form of deceit or fraud with respect to an academic assignment. During exams, if a student copies from someone else, uses unauthorized material for help or has someone else take the exam for them; it will be marked as cheating and treated as such. Sharing notes on assignments or using the same assignment for multiple courses without the express consent of any relevant instructors also becomes deceit and is therefore cheating. After plagiarism and cheating, students misusing their own work is also a concern for the academic integrity policies at Walden. Even when using their own prior written work in a paper, students at Walden are expected to cite themselves as primary authors. For assignments, it is also necessary to obtain the consent of the instructor before using work that has been submitted before. Academic integrity is also under attack if a student at Walden resorts to providing false information. This can be done in the form of statistical data in an academic assignment that is falsified or made up. Written work with false claims that are not data also come under this banner. Moreover, false information outside the context of an assignment also comes under this category. Copyright violation can also land students at Walden in hot waters in regard to the policy about academic integrity. Copyrighted works of all forms and sizes are to be respected and not replicated in any academic assignment whatsoever. Misrepresenting their own credentials when submitting any documents or any statements also violates this policy. Interfering with another student’s assignment or copying from it is defined at Walden as theft of information and is liable to action. Altering a document at university by forcing a representative’s signature is also a high degree breach of academic integrity.

Walden university primarily believes that the unfair academic advantage obtained by wrong and outlawed behavior should not be allowed nor ignored. A detailed course of conduct therefore makes sure students stick to a list of strict rules when it comes to academic integrity. This code of conduct is, however, not limited to academic integrity and also strives to make sure that students are at their best professional behavior that is devoid of discrimination or harassment at any level throughout their tenure at Walden.

# References

Walden. (2019). *Academic Integrity: Overview*. Retrieved from Academic Guides Walden University: https://academicguides.waldenu.edu/studentaffairs/academicintegrity