

Selected Undergraduate Student Results

2009 Survey of Academic Integrity

The Center for Academic Integrity conducted a survey that assessed Oklahoma State University's students', teaching assistants' (TAs) and faculty members' perceptions of the academic environment, the extent of academic misconduct, and attitudes related to academic integrity. The survey was administered by Dr. Don McCabe at Rutgers University.

All students, faculty and TAs were invited by email to participate in the web-based survey during the fall semester of 2009 and 1,901 students, 186 teaching assistants, and 431 faculty responded to the survey. Response rates were about 8% for students, 19% for teaching assistants and 28% for faculty. This summary presents responses from 1,005 undergraduate students who were not first semester freshman.

Academic Environment at OSU

Students were asked to rate their perceptions of the academic integrity policies at OSU (See Figure 1). Few students believed that the policies were effective, or that student support and understanding of the policies were high or very high.

Almost all students (97%) had been informed about academic integrity policies and said that they had learned some or a lot about the policies from faculty (96%). About half learned about the policies from first year orientation programs (72%), other students (53%), the Student Rights and Responsibilities document (52%), and teaching assistants (45%).

About half of faculty (54%) and TAs (46%) agreed or strongly agreed that students should be responsible for monitoring the academic integrity of other students, however, only 26% of students agreed.

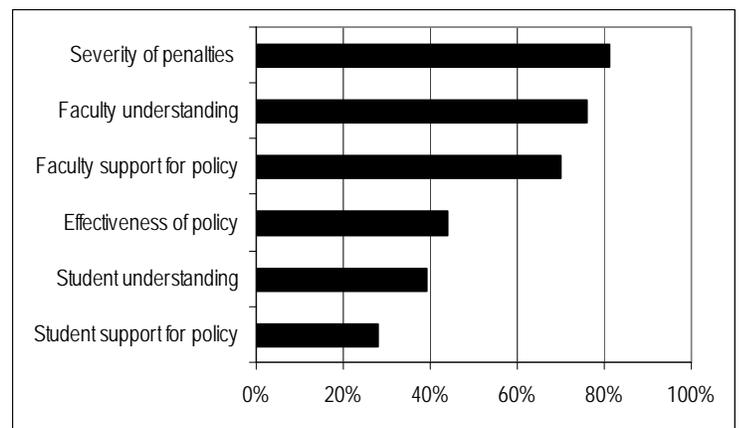


Figure 1. Percentage of students who rated the statement high or very high.

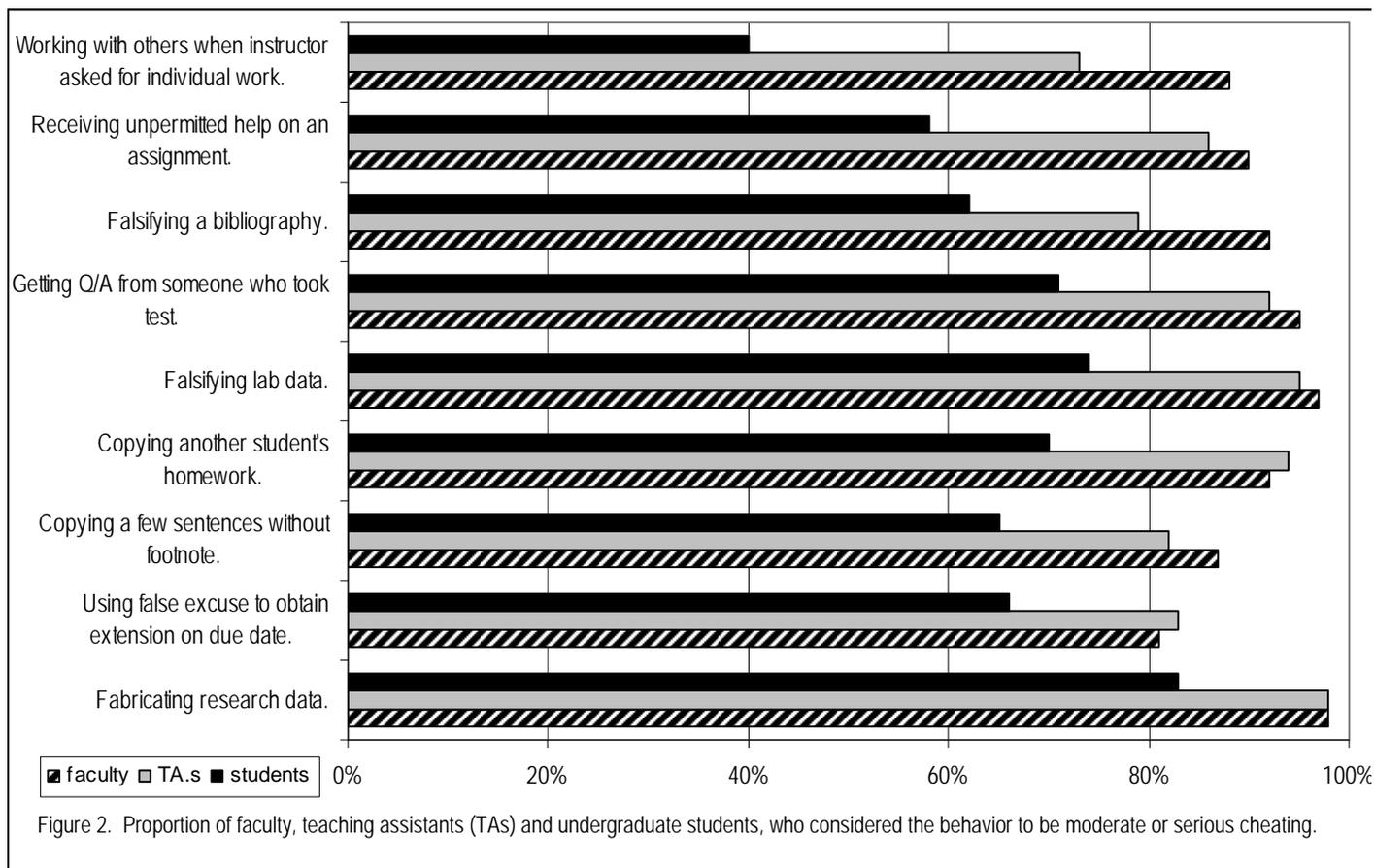
Specific Behaviors

Some faculty (41%) and 45% of undergraduate students had seen a student cheat during an examination. Students were asked to report how often they had engaged in the behavior in the past year. About 60% of students reported engaging in at least one behavior that violated academic integrity. Behaviors reported by at least 15% of students are listed below.

- 37% Worked with others when the instructor asked for individual work.
- 31% Copied (by hand or in person) another student's homework.
- 25% Got questions and answers from someone who took the test.
- 25% Copied a few sentences from the Internet without a footnote.
- 24% Copied a few sentences from a written source without a footnote.
- 22% Received unpermitted help on an assignment.
- 19% Worked with others electronically when the instructor asked for individual work
- 15% Used a false excuse to obtain an extension on a due date.

Students were less likely to consider specific behaviors to be moderate or serious cheating than faculty or TAs (figure 2), however, most faculty, TAs and students agreed that the following behaviors were moderate or serious cheating:

- Turning in work done by someone else.
- Copying material almost word for word from a written source and turning it in as your own work.
- Using unpermitted crib notes, using an electronic device as an aid or getting help electronically during a test.
- Turning in a paper copied from another student.
- Copying from another student during a test *with* or *without* his or her knowledge or helping someone else cheat on a test.
- Turning in a paper obtained in large part from a term paper "mill" or website.
- Falsifying or fabricating research data, laboratory data, or a bibliography.
- In a course requiring computer work, copying a friend's program rather than doing your own.
- Getting questions and answers from someone who has taken an examination.
- Receiving unpermitted help on an assignment.
- Copying a few sentences from an Internet or written source without a footnote.
- Using a false excuse to obtain an extension on a due date.
- Copying another student's homework (by hand, in person or electronically).



OSU's Academic Integrity Panel recommends that students consider using the following strategies to promote academic integrity.

- Find out your instructor's views on academic integrity.
- Understand what behaviors are considered to be violations of academic integrity. Here are a behaviors identified in OSU's new policy on Academic Integrity:
 unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, multiple submissions, cheating on examinations, fabricating information, helping another person cheat, unauthorized advance access to examinations, altering or destroying the work of others, fraudulently altering academic records
- Know the possible penalties for cheating at OSU:
 Receiving no credit for the assignment, examination, paper, or project.
 Failing the course with an "F!" grade on your transcript noting a violation of academic integrity.
 Being suspended from the university.
- Don't wait to start working on assignments, preparing for examinations, or asking your instructor for help with class.
- When you observe another student violating academic integrity, inform the student about the academic integrity policy and procedures, notify the instructor, or report the violation using EthicsPoint (www.ethicspoint.com)
- Volunteer to serve on the Academic Integrity Panel.

The Academic Integrity Panel asks faculty and student groups to support the following statement of academic integrity:

I will respect Oklahoma State University's commitment to academic integrity and uphold the values of honesty and responsibility that preserve our academic community.

Additional information on academic integrity is available at the Center for Academic Integrity's website (www.academicintegrity.org). For information about this survey or to request a copy of the summary of national data, contact the Office of Academic Affairs, 101 Whitehurst, 405-744-7135.