

SEATTLE BIBLE COLLEGE ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STANDARDS

As a Biblical foundation, please consider the following Scripture:

Exodus 20:15-17; 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 2:12-16

A brief statement from the Seattle Bible College Catalog, Vol. 60:

“Additionally, vulgar language, gambling, dishonesty, cheating, stealing, and attitudes unbecoming to a believer, are also inappropriate according to Scripture” (11).

A further clarifying statement:

Honesty and integrity must be maintained in class work. Plagiarism, using the words or thoughts of another in your writing without giving the proper credit through documentation, will not be tolerated.

The following is a further explanation of the expectations and perspective of SBC as it relates to academic integrity.

Excellence. Our vision for each SBC student is that he/she will do his/her own work “in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Col. 3:17 NKJ), and will “do it heartily, as the Lord and not to men” (Co. 3:23 NKJ).

Honesty and integrity. It is expected that each of our students will be fully and personally responsible for all material submitted as part of any class exercise, and that all such material will be the actual work of the student whose name appears on any assignment, quiz examination, etcetera.

Motivation. Because of God’s love for us, and our love for the Lord as well as our fellow man, we especially recognize that issues of truthfulness and honesty are extremely significant. Therefore, we also believe that scholastic dishonesty is a serious breach of both biblical teachings and commonly held academic standards, and represents an offense to God, to other students and the faculty. We also realize that since we are involved in the training of Christian leaders, a higher standard may be appropriately applied.

Examples of academic dishonesty. *Academic dishonesty includes such activities as the following:*

1. Cheating on assignments and tests:
 - a. Copying all or a part of someone’s work, with or without his/her permission, or using his/her ideas with only a small amount of reworking.
 - b. Use of unauthorized notes or other material when taking an exam or copying answers to exam questions.
 - c. Collaborative work for a particular assignment or project that results in essentially submitting the same material for a particular assignment by more than one student – ***without receiving specific permission from the instructor.*** (Designated group assignments or projects in which a student is an approved participant is, of course, permissible).
2. Plagiarism. (See further explanations provided).
3. Submitting the same (or basically the same) paper or project in more than one course without prior knowledge and consent of the instructors involved.

Please note: Anyone who assists another student in committing an act of academic dishonesty is equally responsible for the offense.

Penalties for academic dishonesty. It is expected that instructors will report any and all instances of students involved in academic dishonesty to the Administration. Penalties may include reduced credit or no credit on the assignment or test, additional assignments, reduced grade for the course, failure of the course, or other measures deemed appropriate by the instructor and the Administration. Academic dishonesty can also result in dismissal from the college.

To augment materials already provided for SBC students, the following details as to what “plagiarism” is and how to avoid this area of dishonesty by properly documenting sources for student’s written work.

Plagiarism – and how to avoid it. In *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 3rd ed. (New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 1988), by Joseph Gibaldi and Walter S. Achtert, the authors state the following:

You may have heard of the word plagiarism used in relation to lawsuits in the publishing and recording industries. You may also have had classroom discussions about academic plagiarism. Plagiarism is the act of using another person’s ideas or expressions in your writing without acknowledging the source. The word comes from the Latin word *plagiarius* (“kidnapper”), and Alexander Lindey defines it as “the false assumption of authorship: the wrongful act of taking the product of another person’s mind, and presenting it as one’s own” (*Plagiarism and Originality* [New York: Harper, 1952] 2). In short, to plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed from someone else (21).

Plagiarism in student writing is often unintentional, as when an elementary school pupil, assigned to do a report on a certain topic, goes home and copies down, word for word, everything on the subject in an encyclopedia. Unfortunately, some students continue to such “research methods” . . . without realizing that these practices constitute plagiarism. A writer who fails to give appropriate acknowledgement when repeating another’s wording or particularly apt term, paraphrasing another’s argument, or presenting another’s line of thinking is guilty of plagiarism. You may certainly use other person’s words and thoughts in your research paper, but you must acknowledge the authors.

Plagiarism often carries severe penalties, ranging from failure in a course to expulsion from school (22).

In writing your research paper, you must document everything that you borrow—not only direct quotations and paraphrases but also information and ideas. Of course, common sense as well as ethics should determine what you document. For example, you rarely need to give sources for familiar proverbs (“You can’t judge a book by its cover.”), well-known quotations (“We shall overcome.”), or common knowledge (“George Washington was the first president of the United States.”). But you must indicate the source of any appropriated material that readers might otherwise mistake for your own (155).