

## A practical guide to improving academic integrity in the classroom

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**Type:** Working paper

**Section:** Academic Integrity projects and applications

**Abstract:**

Awareness of the problems surrounding academic misconduct and plagiarism is improving, and there are suggestions as to how this can be avoided or discouraged. This working paper focuses on prevention rather than detection and punishment, and will examine the possibility of creating a comprehensive guide containing practical tools and methods to help teaching staff, students and management develop a better understanding of what constitutes academic misconduct and plagiarism, why academic integrity is important, and why academic misconduct should be avoided. A review of existing tools and resources will be carried out, along with evidence of their success (or otherwise) wherever possible. Using focus groups and surveys, views from students themselves will be sought as to what may help them appreciate the importance of academic integrity and how they might best learn how to avoid making common mistakes. Discussions with academic staff about what they personally have tried will also be gathered and compiled. Rather than being a book to be read from cover to cover, the guide will be a 'go to' resource which can be dipped into, a 'tool-kit' of sorts, with suggestions for start of term activities, homework, peer activities and more. Academic staff can then choose the activity or tool most appropriate for their particular cohort, and build on the suggestions to suit their own needs.

**Keywords:** Academic integrity, contract cheating, education, plagiarism, resources, toolkit.