

## **Students and teachers' perceptions about academic dishonesty at different faculties of a university in Pakistan**

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**Type:** Full paper

**Section:** Misconduct and challenges in higher education

### ***Abstract:***

In modern day competitive academia, it has become a common practice for many students to use various cheating sources to secure better grades (usually more than what they actually deserve) in their courses. For students, access to information and sources is easier than ever while this spread of technology is making it difficult for institutes to discover and prevent such negative practices. To avoid and prevent these practices, it is important that students and faculty members share perceptions about these malpractices and work together for a better solution. This research is an effort to explore perceptions of students and teachers about academic dishonesty in Pakistan and how this understanding can help us in creation of positive environment. Research questions focused on exploring differences in perceptions of students and teachers towards academic dishonesty and perceptions of participants from different academic faculties. Results of data collected through questionnaires suggest that cheating and plagiarism are common practices among students of our university. Furthermore, there are large differences in perceptions of students and teachers about academic dishonesty. This gap about understanding the concept of academic integrity and consequences of failing to meet requirements is the real challenge in Pakistani context. In addition to other factors, all participants feel that university should provide clear policy and implement it strictly. It is recommended that more dialogue is needed among faculty members about what constitutes academic misconduct and teachers should provide more guidance to students for positive outcomes. University can outline a clear and strict policy to enforce rules related to academic dishonesty.

**Keywords:** Academic dishonesty, students' perceptions, teachers' perceptions.