



NAZARBAYEV
UNIVERSITY

Academic Integrity

Why does it matter



Astana
May 2016

IAU – MCO Institutional Code of Ethics(1)

- The International Association of Universities - Magna Charta Observatory Guidelines for an Institutional Code of Ethics in Higher Education(February 2013)
- Context:
 - HE and Research are in a constant state of change:
 - unprecedented pace and scope of intellectual inquiry
 - Unmatched growth of HE
 - Ever-increasing no. of more diverse students
 - Far reaching, at times unpredictable consequences of scientific and intellectual inquiry
 - additional responsibility on the entire academic community to deepen ethical self-awareness, to act with integrity and to examine continuously the ethical underpinnings and implications of their actions in the wider community

IAU – MCO Institutional Code of Ethics(2)

- The legitimacy, credibility, support, and autonomy of higher education institutions =>
 - a function of the quality of teaching and learning, research and outreach, as well as the integrity and transparency of their procedures
- Underlying Values and Principles:
 - i. Academic integrity and ethical conduct of research
 - ii. Equity, justice and non-discrimination
 - iii. Accountability, transparency and independence
 - iv. Critical analysis and respect for reasoned opinions
 - v. Responsibility for the stewardship of assets, resources and the environment
 - vi. Free and open dissemination of knowledge and information
 - vii. Solidarity with and fair treatment of international partners

=> It's not “just” about academic integrity

What is Academic Integrity?

- Academic integrity can be defined in many ways. One useful definition comes from the University of Tasmania (2010):
 - "Academic integrity is about mastering the art of scholarship. Scholarship involves researching, understanding and building upon the work of others and requires that you give credit where it is due and acknowledge the contributions of others to your own intellectual efforts. At its core, academic integrity requires honesty. This involves being responsible for what academic dishonesty is and how to avoid it."

Why does Academic Integrity matter

- Lets' take a look at Nazarbayev University, it's vision and five mandates

Vision:

To give Kazakhstan and the world the scientists, academics, managers and entrepreneurs they need to prosper and develop.

Mandate I: Educational reform leadership

- To ensure that the lessons of NU's experience are transferred and understood by other universities, schools and research centers.

Mandate II: Academic Excellence

- To achieve NU's mission by developing and maintaining academic excellence.

Mandate III: Research Excellence

- To develop a program of world-class research by partnering with the world's best researchers and research institutions.

Mandate IV: Creating a Model For Healthcare Services

- To establish a healthcare system that will provide a model for healthcare services throughout Kazakhstan.

Mandate V: Innovation and Translating Research into Production

- To become Kazakhstan's main driver of innovation, leading the way for Astana to become a regional hub of innovation.

=> Institutional ethics, including academic integrity at the core of NU

NU's Core Values

Core values of NU:

- ❖ **Embracing diversity** - integrated into every aspect of education, research and community;
- ❖ **Equal access to education** - regardless of race, religion, gender, physical capacity or socioeconomic status;
- ❖ **Merit based institutions** - open to all talented and bright students, faculty and researchers;
- ❖ **Integrity** of teaching, research, administration and student life;
- ❖ **Professionalism** and **high ethical principles** for students, teachers and researchers;
- ❖ **Transparency and openness** - public accessibility to all aspects of university operations.

Unfettered exercise of reason, tempered by respect for the dignity of all people.

NU – Graduate Attributes

1. Possess an in-depth and sophisticated understanding of their domain of study;
2. Intellectually agile, curious, creative, and open-minded;
3. Thoughtful decision-makers who know to involve others;
4. Entrepreneurial, self-propelling and able to create new opportunities;
5. Fluent and nuanced communicators across languages and cultures;
6. Cultured and tolerant citizens of the world;
7. Possess high personal integrity;
8. Prepared to take a leading role in the development of their country;

But talk is cheap - policies and practices must be aligned

- The best policies are accessible, understandable, easy to read and importantly, are upheld by students, staff, faculty and administrators.
- Policies can be formative and educative, not only punitive.
- At NU, we identify unacceptable academic practices in our Academic Policies and Procedures.
- We define what we mean by integrity, and we explain why it is important.
- We explain procedures for reporting and managing cases of academic integrity at three levels, A, B and C. The most serious level cases are heard in confidence, by a panel convened by the Office of the Provost.
- We have dismissed some students for very serious breaches of academic integrity. These students were enrolled in our undergraduate, masters and doctoral level programs.

=> Responsibility for academic integrity rests with our university community, not only students, but all other stakeholders have a role to play to create conditions which maximise original thinking and minimise cheating. Our faculty, staff and university administrators all have a role to play to create an environment which celebrates integrity and looks on cheating as dishonest behaviour, unworthy of our community members

