

Academic Integrity: *What Do Students Think?*

Chapman Learning Commons



***On screen:* We asked UBC students what academic integrity means to them. Here's what they said.**

Raghav (5th Year History Major + Political Science Minor):

Academic integrity to me means respect, fairness, and citing other people's work, giving other people's academic and creative ideation the respect it deserves. So for instance, you write a paper. You're drawing inspiration from other people. That's kind of how it works. Your idea can be original, but each idea comes from another. I think that people need to honour that and actually employ that in the creation of their own ideas, just because it's important.

Natalia (4th Year English Major):

To me, it's about being thoughtful and transparent so being honest about where you're getting your information from and citing it properly.

***On screen:* Has your academic integrity changed during your time in university?**

Lola (4th Year Sociology Major + Creative Writing Minor):

I think so, just because I didn't know as much about it before I entered university. I feel like none of the studying I had done before was really focused on it, and now every lecture that I've done starts with a little briefing on academic integrity. So, I know a lot more about it now.

Natalia: Yeah, definitely. I used to think of it as a hurdle to get over, like in high school. But in university, I've come to realize, like, understand why you should cite, you know, to like, just make academic work more complete, and actually include it in an ongoing conversation.

Raghav: I would say that my opinion on what academic integrity is has changed. Mainly because when I was in high school, it was just anti-plagiarism. You don't plagiarize other people's work. I think now I have a better understanding of why. I think ideas build upon each other, and when you reference other people's work, it's not just because you don't want to copy something. It's because you're collaboratively making something better and contributing to a space.

***On screen:* Has the rise of AI affected your view on academic integrity?**

Lola: I think AI has definitely impacted how I view academic integrity because it's made it a lot easier to be dishonest and get away with it, I feel. We have AI checkers and stuff like that,

but it's kind of creating a new way for people to get away with doing less work or using other people's knowledge or knowledge that they find and phrasing that they find on the Internet.

Natalia: Somewhat. I think it's made citing things a little murkier, especially because it's so new. I try to go by what professors, what their guidelines are, which are usually in the syllabus, and also just treat AI like any other source. If I do use it, I'll cite it and, you know, it's here. It's not going away, so might as well learn how to use it responsibly.

Raghav: Yes. I think there are benefits that people can argue about what AI does and how it's used as an aiding tool. I would say, like in terms of my field, it does risk the impediment of thinking critically and thinking through things, I think. When you rely too much on aids and tools, you kind of lose the motivation and the part of your brain that thinks through problems and problem solves.

On screen: **How do you approach citations?**

Natalia: Since I'm an English student, I use a lot of MLA, so I like to use Purdue OWL. They have a really thorough and up-to-date style guide, so I'll just reference it all the time. Anytime I start an assignment, I'll make a separate document where, as I'm doing my research, I'll list my sources and format them properly. I'll include bullet points with either paraphrased ideas or quotations I'd like to use. That just really streamlines the writing process for me and it makes it easier to just copy [and] paste from my documents so I know I'm not missing anything and citing things properly.

On screen: **Do you have any tips for first-year students?**

Lola: I don't know. When I was in first year I think I would have just liked to be told that whatever you put on paper you're gonna improve on later and you're only doing it to get better at it anyway, so don't stress too much about what you're doing

Natalia: What really helped me was to understand why you should cite. It just made the process less tedious—and even fun for me, a little bit—because it turns into like a puzzle where you're trying to find different connections between different works and engage with them. And just being honest about where you're getting work from. You don't really benefit from any sort of plagiarism.

Visit our website for more information and resources at learningcommons.ubc.ca

Follow us on social media:

[Instagram: @ubclearn](#)

[X: @ubclearn](#)

[YouTube: @UBCLEAP](#)