SPECIAL ISSUE

Promoting Academic Integrity in Remote or Online Courses

COVID-19 has forced us all to rethink the way that we teach and support our students. The transition from face-to-face teaching and learning to remote/distance and online was too rapid for many of us to make careful choices or polish the implementation of these choices. As the winter term ends, we may have a bit more time to reflect on our choices. We may also have more time to think about how we can promote academic integrity in our courses.

It is important to keep in mind that a culture of academic integrity can be fostered more effectively when we use several best practices for teaching and assessment. We must also be aware that implementing too many ideas at one time may increase our own stress levels or add unnecessary stress levels to students. Stress is an important determinant of poor decision-making – for both instructors and students.

With these considerations in mind, you may wish to use a few strategies to support academic integrity in your upcoming course.

- Pay attention to how your course is structured. Align the course and lesson objectives to the learning activities and assessment strategies.
- Build and maintain honest, respectful, and trusting relationships with your students by staying in regular contact with them through email or UM Learn by posting letters or video. Learn more here.
- Highlight the University of Manitoba Student Discipline Bylaw (including the Student Academic Misconduct Procedure) in your UM Learn course shell and provide examples of acceptable and unacceptable behaviours. You may also wish to discuss the issue of contract cheating and the long-term implications of hiring a third-party to complete course assessments.
Create assignments that require students to post questions and comments about academic integrity on a discussion board. Several ideas for relevant discussion posts can be found in the UM Learn course “Knowledge Nuggets: Bite-sized resources to help students help themselves”. Please contact Brenda.Stoesz@umanitoba for details.

Remind students that providing their UM Learn login information to anyone else is considered ‘personation’ – a very serious form of academic misconduct.

Direct students to learning supports and academic integrity resources

- Successfully adapting to remote learning during COVID-19. This guide will provide students with strategies and resources for successfully completing their term during this uncertain and stressful time.

- The Academic Learning Centre continues to provide academic supports during the COVID-19 pandemic. All Academic Learning Centre supports will be provided online until further notice, including individual tutoring (in writing, content study skills), Supplemental Instructions sessions, and workshops. Click here for more information.

- Academic Advisors foster student academic success using an integrated system of developmental, holistic and proactive approach. Students are encouraged to reach out to academic advisors by phone or email.

- UM Libraries is still open virtually to assist students.

- The Student Accessibility Services office is currently accepting appointments by phone, email, and online.

For more ideas, please visit The Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning --> Academic Integrity -- > Promoting integrity in online courses.

Do you have an academic integrity promotion strategy or approach that you would like to share?

If you have devised unique and effective ways to promote academic integrity and prevent academic misconduct in remote/distance and online teaching and learning, we would love to hear from you. Contact Brenda.Stoesz@umanitoba to share your ideas and be featured in the June 2020 issue of Show Your Integrity.
Upcoming Workshops and Events

Some workshops and events scheduled for April and May will be offered, however, the format and/or location may change as the date approaches.

Apr 14  Conducting Fair Appeal Hearings (Fort Garry Campus)
Apr 23  Conducting Fair Appeal Hearings (Bannatyne Campus)
May 13  Strategies to Increase Learning and Promote Academic Integrity – location/format TBD
May 27  Academic Integrity Inter-Institutional Meeting (AIIIM) 2020

Due to the changes that we are all facing in response to COVID-19, AIIIM 2020 is postponed indefinitely. During the next few weeks and months, we expect to discover new knowledge around academic integrity. The Manitoba Academic Integrity Network (MAIN) will continue to identify and develop opportunities to build connections to support academic integrity in Manitoba.
Academic Integrity in Online Courses: Adapting During COVID-19

Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning, University of Calgary | March 25, 2020

This webinar was designed for instructors who are engaging in rapid adaptation of courses to an online format. Although there are no “silver bullets”, there are effective practices.

This session was facilitated by Dr. Sarah Elaine Eaton, Educational Leader in Residence, Academic Integrity. Dr. Eaton gave her first webinar in 2005 and between credit and non-credit courses, she has taught over 100 online courses at a variety of levels over the past 15 years. She’ll share tips about what works and what does not. To access the webinar, please click here.

Going Remote with Integrity

International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI) | March 21, 2020

This webinar, presented by Dr. Tricia Bertram Gallant (Director, Academic Integrity Office, UC San Diego) and co-sponsored by the International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI), helps faculty adjust to the remote teaching environment by learning tips and techniques for creating a culture of integrity within a virtual/remote environment. Please click here to access the webinar.

Going Remote with Integrity 2.0: Technological Tips & Techniques

International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI) | April 2, 2020
Following the Going Remote with Integrity webinar broadcast on March 20, the ICAI, UC San Diego, and University of Maryland Global Campus collaborate to offer a deeper dive into the technological tips and techniques that faculty will find helpful in Going Remote with Integrity. Please register at: https://ucsd.zoom.us/meeting/register/upUqcOqrqissDftr1pRflZdoDqoKUjnnVA. The live session is capped at 300 people, but if you register and cannot attend live, you will be sent a recorded version.

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