Fostering a Culture of Academic Integrity in Remote/Online Courses

A culture of academic integrity can be fostered more effectively when we select and implement several best practices for teaching and assessment within our remote/online courses. Please consider the following teaching and learning strategies for your summer and fall courses:

- **Align** the course and lesson objectives to the learning activities and assessment strategies.

- Build and maintain **respectful and trusting relationships** with your students by developing and implementing a thoughtful communication plan that includes regular email communications, announcement postings, and/or virtual office hours in UM Learn. These communications can also remind students of the importance of academic integrity and the seriousness of academic misconduct.

- Learn about **contract cheating** and discuss the long-term implications and dangers of students’ asking/hiring third-parties 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 and/or to enroll.

- Developing detailed rubrics or other specific assessment expectations regarding academic integrity.

- Highlight the University of Manitoba **Student Discipline Bylaw** in your UM Learn course shell and provide examples of acceptable and unacceptable behaviours.

- Consider adding statements related to the following issues in your UM Learn course (if applicable).
- Require students to sign an academic integrity declaration or an academic integrity checklist that is submitted along with the assignment or exam.

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

- If collaboration (e.g., discussing answers with peers) is not permitted when completing take-home assessments in your course, remind students of this expectation.

- Plagiarism rules still apply to “open book exams.” Tell students that they are writing an ‘open book’ test/exam and are still expected to paraphrase or quote the information from their sources and to use the documentation style that has been specified.

- Include clear wording for the expectations for documenting sources, including citations and references, that is prominent within the set of instructions for the assessment.

- If collaboration is not permitted during an online exam in your course, then communicate the UM exam regulations and procedures clearly to students. Tell them to treat these exams in the same way as they would when writing in-person exams.

- Similarly, remind student that they are not permitted to discuss or share answers in any way after completing an online exam.

- Tell students that they must write the exam without any assistance from another person or website during the exam.

- Remind students that if they live with someone who is writing the same exam, they must safeguard and protect their exam answers and any materials that they are using for the exam.

- Direct students to learning supports and academic integrity resources

  - University of Manitoba Academic Integrity website

  - 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. Consider directing your students to the Online Study Power Hour plus sessions.

  - 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 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/online teaching and learning, we would love to hear from you. Contact Brenda.Stoesz@umanitoba to share your ideas and be featured in the September 2020 issue of SHOW YOUR INTEGRITY.

Upcoming Workshops and Events

June 3 University College of the North: Open Mic Series (10:00 – 11:30 am)

Moderated by Terralyn McKee (University College of the North)

This Open Mic session features a cross-institutional panel of members of the Manitoba Academic Integrity Network (MAIN) currently working in post-secondary institutions in Manitoba.

Participants will learn strategies to educate students about academic integrity in remote/online teaching and learning environments, including the importance of building trusting and respectful relationships with students. Current challenges in academic integrity and various sources of support will be discussed. Attendees are encouraged to participate by sharing their experiences and questions they have about academic integrity.

Zoom Meeting: https://ucn-ca.zoom.us/j/95474490081?pwd=T1prcjhZVjJHMjNLZULU2M2ZTNSUT09

Meeting ID: 954 7449 0081 Password: 135ncu79

Please do not publicly post this link outside of secure emails. This session is open to staff from Manitoba post-secondary institutions and attendance is limited to the first 300 participants. The session will be recorded for distribution at a later date through MAIN.