Academic Integrity

The mission of Azusa Pacific Online University includes cultivating in each student not only the academic skills that are required for a university degree, but also the characteristics of academic integrity that are integral to a sound Christian education. It is, therefore, part of the mission of the university to nurture in each student a sense of moral responsibility consistent with the biblical teachings of honesty and accountability. Furthermore, a breach of academic integrity is viewed not merely as a private matter between the student and a professor, but rather as an act that is fundamentally inconsistent with the purpose and mission of the entire university. The maintenance of academic integrity is the responsibility of each student at Azusa Pacific Online University and each student is responsible for understanding and upholding the Academic Integrity Policy.

Students should familiarize themselves with the expectations specified by the professor in each class concerning what is and is not permitted, especially in matters of group projects, reports, and the attribution of research to sources (footnoting).

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Plagiarism: Representing the words, ideas, or work of another as one’s own in any academic exercise
- Cheating: Using or attempting to use unauthorized material, information, or study aids in any academic exercise including unauthorized collaboration
- Fabrication: Falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise
- Facilitating academic dishonesty: Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another commit an act of academic dishonesty, or allowing someone else to represent your work

By virtue of their registration at Azusa Pacific Online University, students agree to uphold the following pledge: “As a student at this Christ-centered university, I will uphold the highest
standards of academic integrity. I will not lie, cheat, or steal in my academic endeavors, nor will I accept the actions of those who do. I will conduct myself responsibly and honorably in all my academic activities as an Azusa Pacific Online University student.”

Sanctions for first violations are determined by the professor of record if the violation is not flagrant, and may include an F in the class, an F on the assignment, or a less-severe action based upon the nature of the violation. The professor of record will report all infractions to the program director. The standard sanction for a repeated offense or for a flagrant violation (e.g., submitting a purchased paper or allowing someone else to represent you online) is suspension or dismissal from the university. All flagrant violations will be referred to the program director. Students may appeal a sanction they believe to be unfair or unjust to the program director and finally to the university’s chief academic officer.