

*Knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful*

## Integrity and Nursing

- Nursing is the most trusted profession...BUT... 58% of nursing students self-reported a dishonest behavior (McCabe, 2009)

## Dishonest Behaviors

- Antecedents:
  - High stakes environment of higher education
  - Normative support for dishonest behaviors
  - Student self-reported reasons:
    - Lack of time
    - Making other proud
    - Getting into graduate school
    - Didn't know where to start
    - competition
- Consequences:
  - Educational institutions are the gate-keeper of the profession
  - Students who engage in academic dishonesty are more likely to practice dishonestly (Harper 2006)

*Integrity is foundational to the nurse's role and responsibility.*

## Academic Integrity

A commitment to fundamental values, even in the face of adversity

- Honesty** - Practicing intellectual and personal honesty in learning, teaching, research and service.
- Trust** – Fostering of a climate of mutual trust in order to stimulate the free exchange of ideas which in turn allows scholarly inquiry to reach its fullest potential.
- Fairness** - Establishing clear and transparent expectations, standards, and practices to support fairness in the interactions of students, faculty, and administrators.
- Respect** - Acknowledging the interactive, cooperative and participatory nature of learning and valuing diverse opinions and ideas
- Responsibility** -Recognizing personal accountability coupled with the willingness of individuals and groups to lead by example, uphold mutually agreed-upon standards, and take action when they encounter wrongdoing.
- Courage** – Doing what is right even in the face of adversity or personal risk.

(<http://www.academicintegrity.org>)

*A commitment grounded in what is right and good for all*

## Academic Dishonesty

An act to gain an advantage greater than others

- Cheating** - using unauthorized material in an academic exercise or having another person do the work for you
- Fabrication** – inventing or falsifying information
- Facilitating** – Helping others commit an act of dishonesty
- Plagiarism** – Using the words or ideas of another without attribution
- Multiple submissions** – Using work from a previous activity as if it were new and original work
- Deception** – Misrepresenting work, records or credentials. Includes taking credit for group work when one did not contribute to the end product

*A choice grounded in personal gain*

*Integrity is doing the right thing when no one is watching*

## Strategies

The goal is not punishment but creation of a community where intellectual integrity prevails

- Role model integrity
  - Demonstrate the behavior you want to see in your students
- Keep it fresh
  - Recycled assignments get recycled responses
- Make it meaningful
  - Learning opportunities not busy work
- Build towards an outcome
  - Sequence activities towards a valued outcome
- Set the bar high and mean it
  - Expect high standards of behavior
- Meaningful feedback
  - Support growth and development

## Significance

- A paradigm shift from catching and punishing cheaters to promoting and modeling integrity is needed.
- Academic integrity impacts learning, behavior and professionalism