

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AT OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

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WHAT IS ACADEMIC DISHONESTY?

- It is “any deliberate attempt to falsify, fabricate or otherwise tamper with data, information, records, or any other material that is relevant to the student's participation in any course, laboratory, or other academic exercise or function” (Delta College).
- Anything from copying a homework assignment to purchasing a research paper from a website- it’s all considered academic dishonesty!
- All acts should be taken seriously and punished appropriately.



IS IT AN ISSUE HERE AT OBU?

- While academic dishonesty has been proven to be a rising issue all across the United States among almost all ages, specifically in college age students, it is also a major problem here at Ouachita.
- I have had students ask me to tell them what questions were on an exam or a quiz.
- Students have asked to copy down my homework answers.
- While I have NEVER participated in such dishonest acts- IT IS HAPPENING RIGHT HERE AT OBU ON A DAILY BASIS!



THE PROBLEM-NATIONWIDE

- 54% of undergraduates have admitted to plagiarizing via the Internet (Jones 1)
- 80% of undergraduates have admitted to some form of cheating at least one time in their academic career (Jones 1)
- Cheating has been more common and accepted, even encouraged, among and between college students over the past few years (Jaffe)



WHY IS ACADEMIC DISHONESTY ON THE RISE?

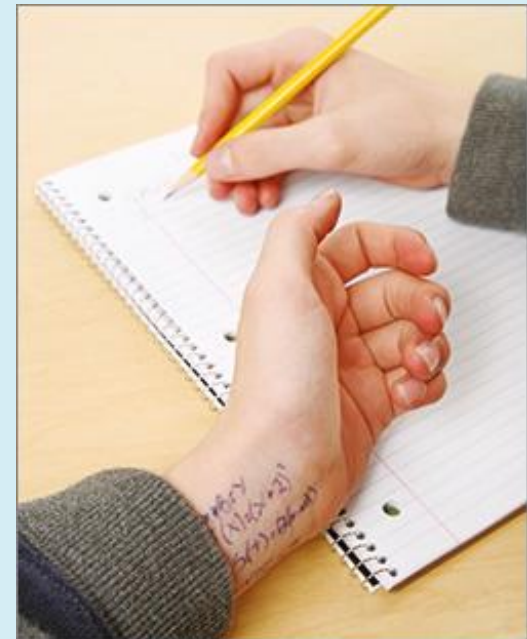
- One theory as to why academic dishonesty is on the rise among college students is due to the increase in technology, which provides students with a variety of new ways to cheat or plagiarize via their smartphones, tablets, or laptops (*CyberEthics*).
- College age students admit to using technology for at least 3 to 4 hours a day, every day of the week (*CyberEthics*).
- Students are becoming more reliant on the Internet and are more comfortable using it in an immoral way (*CyberEthics*).
- College age students are using their handheld technological devices, specifically smartphones, to take pictures of exams, text test answers to a friend, or even buy a research paper from a website and turn it in as their own work (*CyberEthics*).

MR. SCOTT HAYNES' POINT OF VIEW ON THE ISSUE

- Our very own Dean of Students, Mr. Haynes, agreed with me in saying that academic dishonesty is “a pretty big problem.”
- He believes it doesn't happen too often here at OBU, but it “is significant when it happens” (Haynes).
- Mr. Haynes does believe in showing forgiveness and grace, because, as Christ-followers, Jesus has called us to.
- He acknowledges that “the majority of Ouachita students want to have integrity”; therefore, Mr. Haynes believes that most offenses occur with the underclassmen.
- He believes this to be the case because they are uneducated on what is academically dishonest versus what is not (Haynes).

THE PROBLEM

- Many OBU students do not believe that they will be caught if they do cheat.
- Even if they think they might get caught, they don't believe that the punishment will be too severe.
- Many Ouachita students believe it is worth it to take the risk.



PAST ATTEMPTS HERE AT OBU

- The signing of the covenant from incoming students in Chapel service in front of the entire student body occurs in hopes that it will decrease the number of academically dishonest acts.
- Using websites such as “Turnitin.com” to catch plagiarism is another way OBU professors have tried to control the problem.
- Professors can file a report to Mr. Haynes if they so wish.
- Professors can choose to handle the situation on their own terms too.
- OBU professors can send the student to the Judicial Council too.



THE SOLUTION

- I suggest that all academically dishonest offenses be reported and filed, so that the Dean knows how many times a student has been academically dishonest and can punish appropriately in comparison to the number of offenses.
- Ouachita should require an online class for all OBU incoming students similar to the required sexual harassment online class.
- If that is not possible, an OBU professor could hold a 2 hour class on academic honesty at New Student Orientation.
- This way no student can claim that they were unaware that they were cheating.
- More professors need to make individual rules for their classroom and enforce them.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

- Academic dishonesty is an issue here at OBU and it needs to be contained.
- We need to unite as students and professors to end this issue.
- Hopefully, one day, academic dishonesty is will be only a thing of the past at OBU.

"I would prefer even to fail with honor than to win by cheating"

- Sophocles