

## **Policies Governing Academic Matters**

### *Academic Integrity*

Stephens College is a community of scholars committed to truth. The validity of a Stephens College degree depends upon the integrity of the work that it represents. Academic dishonesty violates the ethical standards of our community and stunts students' intellectual and personal development. Stephens has therefore adopted an academic dishonesty policy that imposes penalties for students who commit acts of academic dishonesty.

### *Academic Dishonesty*

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Committing plagiarism. Plagiarism means presenting another person's work as one's own. The work in question could be research data, a text of any kind, a performance, musical composition, design, work of visual art, photograph, film, video, choreography, or any other type of intellectual property, whether copyrighted or not. This includes buying another person's work from any source and presenting it as one's own.
2. Cheating. Cheating means engaging in any dishonest behavior on examinations, tests, quizzes, assignments, or any other academic activity. This includes use or attempted use of unauthorized assistance, collaboration (unless expressly permitted by the instructor), and unauthorized possession of examinations or other academic materials belonging to a member of the college faculty or staff.
3. Engaging in activities that disadvantage another student, including destruction, defacement, alteration or unauthorized removal of resource materials, or sabotaging another student's work.
4. Turning in substantially the same work for more than one course (unless expressly permitted by the instructors).
5. Misrepresenting oneself or one's circumstances in order to obtain an advantage in academic activities.
6. Using copyrighted material without obtaining the appropriate rights or permissions. The material in question could be a computer program, a text of any kind, a performance, musical composition, design, work of visual art, photograph, film, video, choreography, or any other type of copyrighted material.
7. Fabricating or falsifying any data, information, or citation in an academic activity.
8. Aiding another student in any act of academic dishonesty.

The procedures to be followed in cases of academic dishonesty are outlined below.

1. An instructor suspecting academic dishonesty will first make a concerted effort to confer with the student.
2. If, after conferring with the student, or attempting to confer with the student, the instructor is convinced the student is not guilty of academic dishonesty, the matter will be dropped.
3. If, after conferring with the student, the instructor is convinced the student is guilty of academic dishonesty, the instructor will impose the penalty or penalties specified in the course syllabus. If the instructor has not stated a penalty or penalties in the syllabus, the penalty will be no more severe than a grade of failure or no credit for the assignment in question. If the instructor imposes a failing grade for the course, the student will not be allowed to withdraw to avoid the penalty. **The instructor is required to report all acts of academic dishonesty to the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The report will be forwarded to the Academic Standing Committee. A record of every incident of academic dishonesty will be retained in the office of the VPAA.**
4. If the student chooses to appeal the instructor's decision she/he may request a hearing before the Academic Standing Committee by delivering a written request and all supporting evidence to the office of the VPAA within ten (10) days of notification of the instructor's decision. Pending the outcome of the hearing the student should continue to attend the class.
5. Having received a request for a hearing from the office of the VPAA, the chair of the Academic Standing Committee will, in a timely manner, convene the committee for the hearing. The committee chair will notify the student and the instructor of the time and place of the hearing at least three (3) days prior. The student and the instructor have the right to appear in person in front of the committee at the hearing. If he or she considers it advisable, the committee chair may invite other individuals to take part in the hearing. The hearing will provide a fair opportunity for both the student and the instructor to present fully the specific details of the case. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the Academic Standing Committee will rule by vote in closed session. The Committee will notify the student, the student's academic advisor and instructor of its decision in writing. The written notification will clearly outline the consequences of subsequent instances of academic dishonesty by the student. The Academic Standing Committee may decide:
  - To confirm the instructor's finding and impose the penalty or penalties specified in the course syllabus, or
  - To confirm the instructor's finding and in consultation with the instructor, impose a different penalty, or
  - To reverse the instructor's finding, impose no penalty and direct the instructor to impose no penalty.
6. In addition to the hearings described above, the Academic Standing Committee will separately review all cases in which a student is guilty of academic dishonesty on more than one occasion. In these cases, the Committee may recommend to the Vice President for Academic Affairs that the student be placed on disciplinary probation, be suspended from the College, or be expelled from the College.
7. In cases of academic dishonesty that affect a degree already conferred, the Academic Standing Committee will make a recommendation to the President of the College regarding revocation of the degree.
8. All decisions of the Academic Standing Committee are final.

### *Falsification of College Records*

Falsification of College records or of records provided to the College is grounds for disciplinary action. Failure to declare college credit attempted or earned elsewhere is considered falsification of records. Incidents will be reported to the Academic Standing Committee, which will follow the same procedures outlined for academic dishonesty.