



## **Colorado Heights University Academic Integrity Policy**

An environment that promotes and facilitates learning is essential to any academic community. These policies have been developed to sustain such an environment and advance the educational mission of the University. Students are expected to make themselves familiar with all published policies of the University. Failure to do so will not be considered grounds for excusing violations.

### ***Cheating, Plagiarism, and Fair Use versus Copyright Infringement***

#### ***Cheating and Plagiarism***

Cheating is defined as an act, or attempted act, of giving or obtaining aid and/or information by illicit means in meeting any academic requirements, including examination. Plagiarism is defined as misrepresenting another person's ideas, phrases, or discourses as one's own.

#### ***Fair Use versus Copyright Infringement***

The law of copyright indicates that copyright protection applies to works of authorship including but not limited to literary works, musical works (including any accompanying works), dramatic works (including any accompanying music), motion pictures and other audiovisual works and sound recordings. The owner of copyright has exclusive rights to, among other things, reproduce the copyrighted work and distribute copies of the copyrighted work to the public by sale or other transfer or ownership, or by rental, lease or lending. It is not an infringement of copyright if works used fall under the "fair use" exception of copyright law.

Fair use extends to the reproduction of copyrighted material for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship or research. Factors used in determining if copyrighted material falls under the fair use exception includes, but are not limited to, whether the material is used for educational rather than commercial gain, the nature of the copyrighted work, how much of the entire work is used and the potential value of the copyrighted work. Please review:

- [Copyright Infringement and Fair Use Center](#)
- [Know Your Copy Rights — What You Can Do](#) - A 2007 brochure aimed at faculty and teaching assistants from the Association of Research Libraries

#### ***Penalties***

A student who cheats or plagiarizes commits an offense against the entire University community. Cheating, plagiarism or dishonesty in academic work is cause for dismissal

from the University. The penalty for cheating or plagiarism will vary from incident to incident. Initiation of action that can lead to a penalty is primarily the prerogative of the faculty member involved. The possible penalties include a reprimand, grade penalty, dismissal from the course, or a recommendation for dismissal from the University. Penalties up to and including dismissal from a course with a grade of F are at the discretion of the instructor. If an instructor invokes this last penalty, he or she should write a report to the Dean of Academic Affairs within five days of the action, explaining the circumstances of the action.

***Any student, faculty, or staff member who knowingly engages in copyright infringement is subject to punishment by law as well as subject to dismissal from Colorado Heights University.*** Students and other faculty or staff who have evidence of academic dishonesty should bring such evidence to the attention of the instructor or academic administrator.

### ***Procedures and Appeal***

Students who want to appeal an instructor's finding of or penalty for academic dishonesty should go to the Dean of Academic Affairs, who can recommend but not require a change of the instructor's action. If an instructor feels that a penalty more severe than failure in the course is warranted (e.g., suspension or expulsion from the university), he or she should bring the matter to the Academic Standards Committee, which will make a recommendation to the Dean of Academic Affairs.

Students may have other rights under these procedures. For further information, contact the [Dean of Academic Affairs](#).