



UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA

Academic Integrity

A Guide for Graduate Students

Integrity and honesty are fundamental to the pursuit of truth and knowledge at any academic institution. These core values are essential to the function of the academic community at a research university such as the University of Southern California.

Only by maintaining the highest standards of integrity are the conducting of research, the evaluation of students' academic performance, and the ultimate awarding of degrees meaningful and representative of reality.

The following information is intended to assist graduate students at USC in understanding and abiding by the university's standards for academic honesty.

Principles of Academic Honesty

Hallmarks of the academic community include respect for intellectual property and emphasis on individual work. The value placed on these elements of intellectual accomplishment may be significantly greater than in other communities (professional, cultural, etc.) that students have experienced.

Because the definition and dissemination of new knowledge are at the heart of the university's primary endeavor, respect for intellectual property is critical. When the words, ideas or discoveries of another are used in any academic exercise, the source must be cited

clearly in association with the source material used. This respect must be maintained whether the source is published or unpublished documentary information, information provided through a scholarly or professional presentation, or information resulting from the work of another student.

Likewise, while joint work may be permitted or required for particular assignments, faculty evaluation and degree conferral ultimately focus on individual students. It therefore is of the utmost importance that collaborative work and individual accomplishment be clearly differentiated in any academic assignment presented.