

Academic Integrity and good practice

A primary purpose of a University education is to instil in each student an understanding of, and a capacity for scholarship, independent judgment, academic rigour, and intellectual honesty.

It is the joint responsibility of university teachers, support staff and students to work together to foster these ends through relationships which encourage freedom of inquiry, demonstrate personal and professional integrity, and foster mutual respect.

Good academic practice refers to the process of completing your academic work independently, honestly and in an appropriate academic style, using good referencing and acknowledging all of your sources.

To demonstrate good academic practice this you must:

- develop your own independent evaluation of academic issues;
- draw upon research from academics in your field of study;
- discuss and evaluate existing concepts and theories;
- demonstrate your understanding of the key literature;
- develop your own arguments.

To support your own good academic practice you will need to develop:

- study and information skills (eg. reading, note-taking, research etc);
- skills of critical enquiry and evaluation (eg. taking a balanced opinion, using reasoning and argument);
- appropriate academic writing skills (eg. for essays, reports, dissertations etc);
- referencing skills;
- examination techniques (eg. preparation and timing etc).

Achieving good academic practice is not as complicated as it may appear. In a nutshell, you need to:

- know the rules;
- make sure you reference all sources.

Poor academic practice or academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, fraud etc.) is sometimes caused by insecurity as to what is expected and what is allowed. If you are in any doubt you should talk to a librarian and/or your module or personal tutor.

Our expectations of students

The Student Charter (http://web.anglia.ac.uk/anet/students/pdfs/11473_Charter_16ppA5.pdf) requires you to 'be aware of the academic rules relating to your studies', p9). We expect you to agree that you will:

- i) ensure that you are familiar with the academic conventions regarding the citing (acknowledgement, referencing) of the work of others (see <http://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/referencing.htm> for assistance);
- ii) only hand in your own original work for assessment;
- iii) correctly reference all the sources for the information you have included in your work;
- iv) identify information you have downloaded from the internet;

- v) never use another student's work as if it were your own work;
- vi) never use someone else's artwork, pictures or graphics (including graphs, spreadsheets etc. and information from the internet) as if they were made by you;
- vii) never let other students use or copy from your work;
- viii) work through 'PILOT', the online tutorial available on the University library website (<http://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/pilot/>). PILOT addresses a number of study skills which will help you develop good academic practice.