Definition of Academic Integrity
Students who demonstrate academic integrity use their own thoughts and efforts when performing academic work and acknowledge any contributions or collaboration. Academic integrity is critical to Hillsborough Community College’s mission, vision, and values, and it is the responsibility of all faculty, staff, and students of the college. Each person must consciously choose to uphold this important and vital responsibility.

Academic Integrity in Practice
Actively practicing the principles of academic honesty can be accomplished in many ways. Below is a list of several examples of academic integrity in practice.

- Submit ONLY work based on your own understanding of the materials/sources authorized by your instructor AND on your own efforts in gathering information used to complete an assignment.
- Credit any sources used, and be knowledgeable of the definition of plagiarism so that you may avoid it. Plagiarism is intentionally or unintentionally using someone else’s words, ideas, phrases, sentences, pictures, or other original material whether published or unpublished in print or online without acknowledging its source. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to: acquiring or buying a term paper or essay and submitting it as your own; cutting and pasting sentences from a website, or paraphrasing somebody else’s ideas, theories or opinions without acknowledging the original author or creator of the work. Plagiarism also applies to other forms of creative expression such as music, media, and visual arts. One can also self-plagiarize by submitting the same or substantially similar assignment more than once.
- Protect the integrity of your assignments, work and/or exams by not sharing or allowing others to copy your work.
- Use only permissible materials to prepare and complete work. For example, avoid the use of an unauthorized copy of an exam.
- Obtain a clear understanding from instructors about collaborating with others. This understanding will give you a set of rules and expectations to
follow when working with classmates to complete group assignments.

- Provide personal information as required by the college that is accurate and true to the best of your knowledge.
- Report violations of academic honesty to either your instructor or to the Dean of Academic Affairs.

**Benefits of Academic Integrity**

Maintaining academic integrity has college-wide and personal benefits. Specifically, practicing academic integrity:

- protects the reputation of the college. Earning a degree from an institution recognized as having strong academic values and principles can significantly influence the employability of its students in a positive manner. Reputation can also impact the support the college receives from local, state, and federal entities.
- supports the college’s mission to deliver opportunities that empower students to achieve their educational goals and become contributing members of the local community and a global society. In other words, the practice of academic honesty encourages students to be responsible for their own learning and promotes a sense of pride in one’s own accomplishments which in turn can help students in attaining personal and career aspirations.
- ensures fairness for all students. Earned grades accurately reflect the effort put forth by each student and is not a measure of someone else’s work.
- promotes the practice of academic honesty as it provides examples as well as sets a standard for others to follow.

**Consequences of Academic Dishonesty**

Students who engage in academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, collusion, cheating, or other dishonest behavior, may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion from the College.