

Page number  
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of each page

Essay title, centered  
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**The Impact of Academic Integrity on Students' Lives**

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John Smith  
Alexander College  
WLC 101  
Professor Jane Doe  
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Introducing and explaining evidence

## The Impact of Academic Integrity on Students' Lives

Did you know that academic integrity can be useful outside of school? The International Center of Academic Integrity (ICAI) (2021) outlines “six fundamental values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage” (p. 4) in *The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity*. These six values embody what it means to have academic integrity; they will also help promote and facilitate academic integrity (ICAI, 2021, p. 4). When students have academic integrity, it means that they are honest with their work, and effectively analyze and cite their sources in their assignments. By practicing the fundamental skills and values of academic integrity, students develop their abilities, which will enhance their academic, personal, and professional lives.

Thesis statement

Academic integrity helps students build high-level learning skills, such as problem-solving and critical thinking skills, that will be applicable to their academic life. Students most often participate in academic integrity by writing essays that use outside sources to support their own voices. Effective essays will demonstrate students' academic integrity when students do their own work honestly and use proper citations, thereby giving credit to the sources' authors. By participating in academic integrity, students can develop a variety of skills. As most essays require primary or secondary sources, students will be required to use their problem-solving skills to see how the sources will best fit their own paper (Robertson, 2014, p. 265). Moreover, students will develop both problem-solving and critical-thinking skills by effectively using sources to support their own argument. According to Lavelle et al. (2013, as cited in Dahl et al., 2023) and their research on undergraduate nursing students, essay writing “has been recognized as valuable tool for learning, [and] development of critical thinking.” Academic essays, whether research-based or persuasive, all require students to develop their own thoughts while

Indirect citation

utilizing the skills and knowledge that they have learned. Moreover, when students apply their knowledge, develop new ideas, and use different perspectives (Sharpe, 2017), they will be able to develop and demonstrate their critical thinking skills. For instance, Sarah Elaine Eaton (2020) asked her students to trace the history of Maslow’s pyramid such that they can investigate library materials, assess primary sources, and analyze how one source relates to other interpretations of the same concept (p. 7). Through this exercise, the students gathered, analyzed, and cited historical evidence (Eaton, 2020, p. 9), which are necessary steps of the essay-writing process. Ultimately, as students continue to write essays throughout their academic career, they will be able to develop and refine their skills to use in all areas of life.

When students uphold academic integrity, they develop other skills—apart from critical-thinking and analysis—that positively impact their personal life alongside their academic life. People encounter all kinds of problems throughout their life, such as conflict, personal dilemmas, and more. By developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills, students will also be able to better “manage stress and conflict, make better decisions, and achieve [their] goals” (PsychNewsDaily Staff, 2023). In addition, when students do their own work, not only are they able to arrive at unique perspectives, but they can also receive accurate feedback for assignments and gain respect for the learning process itself (Lee, 2022). Receiving accurate feedback will allow students to understand their own strengths and weaknesses, reflect on them, and improve accordingly. In other words, as students continuously write with academic integrity, they will be able to practice and develop different skills. For example, they develop the ability to self-regulate their learning such that they can engage with the materials in a precise and organized way (Nenezić et al., 2023, p. 78). In a similar vein, a positive environment can be especially beneficial as the student improves upon these skills. In many cases, academic

Integrated  
Quote

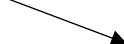
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integrity is seen as the student's responsibility to uphold, but in recent research, there has been a turn toward recognizing the influence of multiple participants in the academic community; specifically, "students, faculty, administrators, and other stakeholders within the learning institution each have different and complementary responsibilities" (Eaton et al., 2022, p. 43). Apart from promoting awareness of academic integrity and outlining clear rules for students, instructors also emphasize the importance of embodying these positive values—such as honesty and respect—when teaching (Eaton et al., 2022, p. 46). With this perspective in mind, it becomes clear that students can successfully develop their critical-thinking skills, enhance their learning, and become hardworking individuals in a collaborative environment that consists of supportive staff and faculty members.

Consecutive citations

Upholding and learning about academic integrity will also help students to develop characteristics and qualities that future employers will value. Upon assessing previous research in this field, Lee (2022) asserts that "[a]cademic integrity is an indicator of future workplace behaviour" and emphasizes the life-long benefits of embodying integrity. In terms of what and how students can embody academic integrity, the six qualities that the ICAI outlined come into play: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage (ICAI, 2021, p. 4). These qualities will help students with their employability, as they represent traits that employers seek out in potential employees. For example, demonstrating respect in academic integrity may look like actively listening to others, openly receiving feedback, respecting other people's ideas, and being an empathetic individual (ICAI, 2021, p. 8). These actions are all important to the workplace, whether students are interacting with their potential boss, coworkers, and clients or customers. Thus, as students continue to implement academic integrity in their studies, they will be able to further prepare themselves for the workplace by developing suitable traits needed for

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employment. Dr. Arthur W. Foshay (1991, as cited in Baker-Gardner, 2022), who was the president of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development in the United States, also supports this notion as he argues that “education [related to academic integrity] develops human intellect, serves social needs, contributes to the economy, creates an effective workforce, prepares the young for careers or jobs and promotes political and social ideologies.” Through the development of academic integrity in their studies, students will not only expand their career-oriented skills and attitudes, but they will also shape their worldviews and contribute to society at large.

Ultimately, academic integrity, which students develop in academic settings through careful completion of assignments and exams, helps students improve skills that will benefit them beyond the classroom. These skills include engaging in thorough research, communicating in open and respectful ways, critical thinking, and willingness to learn new information. Thus, if students would like to improve themselves in different areas of life, one of the best ways to do so during school is to adhere to the values of academic integrity. As they move forward as working adults, students will use these values—which are related to integrity—and be able to successfully navigate new roles and situations in a resilient way.

Sources are listed  
alphabetically.

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