

I. Commitment to Academic Integrity

VLACS expects a full commitment to academic integrity from every student. Completion of the enrollment process signifies a student's commitment to academic integrity as a student at VLACS.

Academic integrity at VLACS means upholding honesty and originality across all academic endeavors, whether working independently, collaborating with peers, or utilizing technological tools. This includes:

- **Original Work & Personal Effort:** Submitting work that genuinely reflects your own learning, understanding, and effort. This is fundamental to all academic tasks.
- **Responsible Use of Resources:** Properly engaging with all available resources, including textbooks, online materials, and technological tools like Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- **Proper Attribution & Citation:** Accurately acknowledging all sources of information, ideas, and content—whether from published works, human collaborators, or AI tools—using established academic citation guidelines.
- **Fair Collaboration:** Collaborating on an assignment with classmates or other individuals only when directed by your instructor, ensuring that shared work remains within ethical boundaries.
- **Honest Representation:** Never presenting another person's work, AI-generated content, or any unoriginal material as your own without proper attribution. This also means not allowing others to copy your work.
- **Ethical Digital Citizenship:** Using all digital tools and internet content responsibly, avoiding misuse, unauthorized access, or any actions that violate privacy or intellectual property rights.
- **No Impersonation:** Refraining from using AI or any other means to impersonate individuals or misrepresent facts.

III. Plagiarism Defined

Plagiarism is defined as follows: copying or using ideas or words (from another person, an online classmate, or an Internet or print source) and presenting them as your own. In the context of Artificial Intelligence (AI), plagiarism also includes submitting content generated or significantly assisted by an AI tool without proper disclosure and citation, as if it were entirely original human work. Please be aware that all VLACS instructors utilize a myriad of technologies to check student work for authenticity and are trained to identify undisclosed AI use. If an instructor confirms that a student has plagiarized work or violated the AI Acceptable Use Rating Scale, the student will be subject to consequences determined by VLACS administration and may be removed from the course with a failing grade.

IV. AI Citation Guidelines

When AI tools are used students are required to acknowledge their use. Specific citation formats will be provided by instructors, but generally, students should:

1. Identify the AI tool used (e.g., "ChatGPT-4," "Gemini").
2. Specify the date(s) of interaction.
3. Provide the prompt(s) used (or a summary if very long).
4. Indicate which parts of the work were generated or assisted by AI. VLACS will provide guidance on commonly accepted citation styles (e.g., MLA, APA, Chicago) for generative AI.

V. Role of AI Detection Tools

AI detection tools may be used as a supplementary measure for academic integrity investigations, but due to a known potential for false positives, AI detection tools will not be the sole basis for a violation.

VI. Consequences for Misuse

VLACS recognizes that student learning and growth are paramount. In instances where a student violates the Academic Integrity policy, including the undisclosed or unauthorized use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the initial course of action will prioritize pedagogical intervention. This approach is designed to help students learn from their mistakes, foster an understanding of responsible AI use, and reinforce the importance of genuine learning and critical thinking.

While our primary goal is to guide students toward academic success, repeated or severe violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action. Consequences will be enforced as outlined in the VLACS Student Discipline Policy (JICD). These actions may include, but are not limited to: assignment resubmission, grade reduction, removal from a course, suspension, or expulsion.

Law References:

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