



Peking University School of Transnational Law

Academic Integrity Code

Fall 2024

1. Preamble

- 1.1. This Academic Integrity Code aims to promote the growth of ethically responsible professionals at STL through adherence to the highest standards of academic integrity and ethical conduct.
- 1.2 STL is committed to nurturing an environment conducive for the exchange of ideas, advancement of knowledge and intellectual development. Academic honesty and integrity are essential conditions for the pursuit and acquisition of knowledge. For its students, STL seeks to cultivate independent and critical thinking skills, to foster academic excellence in the study of law and to prepare students for participation in the legal profession. Absolute integrity is expected of every STL student in all academic undertakings. Integrity entails a firm adherence to a set of values, and the values most essential to an academic community are grounded on the concept of honesty with respect to the intellectual efforts of oneself and others. An STL student's submission of work for academic credit indicates that the work is the student's own.
- 1.3 While representing oneself as a member of the STL community, an STL student will strive for these standards in representations, academic pursuits, and respect for the property and individual rights of others; will uphold the specific principles described in the Code; and will actively support the Code.



2. Prohibited Conduct and Definitions

2.1 Academic Dishonesty:

- a. Conduct undertaken to obtain improper academic advantage is prohibited. Examples include but are not limited to the following prohibited conduct:

2.2 Plagiarism:

- a. In line with STL's mission of training lawyers who discharge their duties with professionalism, STL expects its students to observe high standards of academic integrity and honesty. Therefore, STL students are expected to comply with the fundamental academic norm against plagiarism.

Plagiarism is the representation that the ideas, expression, or language of others, whether published or unpublished, is the writer's own. Plagiarism takes unfair advantage of another person's labor by failing to acknowledge and give credit for the work done by another. Plagiarism may be intentional or negligent.

- b. Plagiarism may arise when
 - i. the writer directly copies or translates words and expressions from another source to the writer's work without providing attribution to the source and indicating that the material is quoted,
 - ii. the writer, even while providing attribution to a source, does not indicate that language or expression is quoted, or
 - iii. the writer, even without copying words or expressions, borrows an idea without providing attribution.

The duty to avoid plagiarism exists by default for all work and assignments, including but not limited to research papers, short papers, and reaction papers and their drafts regardless of whether the assignment is the principal basis for assessment in that course.

The duty to avoid plagiarism also requires attribution to whatever sources a student may use for an assignment regardless of whether the source is scholarly. Material taken from websites, governmental or non-governmental reports, news articles, and blog posts, for example, should also receive attribution.



Moreover, the duty to provide attribution exists for any material regardless, for example, of whether the material borrowed supports background facts or sophisticated legal analysis. These duties exist unless expressly stated by your instructor.

For the purpose of this definition, to “paraphrase” or “paraphrasing” refers to the expression of the same ideas of another using substantially different wording and a different structure from the original text.

When the expression of another is borrowed, it does not need to be placed in quotation marks or otherwise identified as quoted if it is paraphrased, but the writer must still provide attribution to the source of the idea.

If you are unclear about expectations for attribution, it is your responsibility to consult your instructor before you submit your work.

The following also fall under the prohibition on plagiarism:

- i. Using the ideas or words of a course instructor or other source, such as an interview, without acknowledgment;
- ii. Submitting work for an academic purpose where part or all of that work has already been submitted for another purpose, including, among others, for academic credit within STL, or for publication elsewhere unless expressly and clearly permitted by a course instructor; and
- iii. Asking, coercing or inducing others to plagiarize or offering to permit one’s work to be plagiarized.

Ignorance is not a defense to plagiarism.

The following conduct is also prohibited by this Academic Integrity Code:

2.3 Unauthorized Collaboration:

- a. Providing one’s own work to others in violation of a course or instructor’s rules against unauthorized collaboration.
- b. Seeking or obtaining assistance from any other person for an assignment or task in violation of the instructor or course’s rules.



-
- c. Offering or providing assistance to another student for an assignment or task that the student offering or providing assistance knows is in violation of the instructor or course's rules.

Students do not need to be in the same course or cohort to violate the rule against unauthorized collaboration.

2.4 Unauthorized Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools:

- a. Please see Section 3 of the STL Academic Integrity Code for STL's current AI policy.

2.5 Misrepresentation:

- a. Citing material that one has not read or consulted, or fabricating research, or misattributing a work, or not obtaining consent of a collaborator when the paper was published.
- b. Falsifying, forging or misrepresenting academic results or participation in academic or co-curricular activities or results or providing false or forged academic results or certificates within and outside of STL, in the process of applying for evaluations, awards, internships and jobs, or applying for degrees.
- c. Making material misrepresentations about one's own or someone else's class attendance to obtain unfair advantage.
- d. Making material misrepresentations to an instructor or administrator about the reasons for an absence from law-related work, the lateness or non-submission of an assignment, or on any other matter for the purpose of obtaining an academic advantage for oneself or for another.

2.6 Examinations

- a. No candidates shall cheat or act dishonestly, or attempt to do so, in any way, whether before, during or after an examination, so as to obtain or seek to obtain an unfair advantage in an examination for themselves or others.



The following acts, among others, are dishonest conduct:

- i. Accessing or attempting to access exam materials without permission.
- ii. Impersonating someone or arranging for someone to impersonate someone else by sitting their examination.
- iii. Bringing or using material that is not authorized for a particular exam or putting information on one's body that can be used to cheat during an exam. Where a student is unsure of whether material is permitted during an examination, it is the student's duty to consult with the instructor or proctor.
- iv. Soliciting, providing, receiving, or intentionally making available exam questions or answers before or during or after an exam to anyone who has not yet taken the exam.
- v. Providing, receiving, or soliciting information about an exam or exam answers while still taking the examination to anyone besides an exam proctor or, having completed the exam, to a student who is still taking the examination.
- vi. Breaching anonymity for evaluations that are to be assessed anonymously.
- vii. Peeping at another's exam answers or exchanging examination papers and answer sheets and draft papers during an examination.
- viii. Communicating, including whispering, signaling, or gesturing to other exam-takers during the examination except as allowed by proctors.
- ix. Removing exam materials, such as exam questions, from the exam location without permission or photographing or otherwise recording exam questions without permission.
- x. Starting work on an exam before authorization to begin or continuing to work on an exam after the authorized period to work on the exam has lapsed.
- xi. Intentionally destroying examination papers, answer sheets or examination materials for unfair advantage.
- xii. Failing to follow the instructions of the exam proctor.
- xiii. Otherwise engaging in conduct for the purpose of obtaining an unfair advantage for oneself or for another.



3. Revision and Publication of Disciplinary Procedures and Penalties

These disciplinary procedures and rules shall be published in the STL Academic Handbook and to the faculty on an annual basis. The disciplinary rules and procedures Sections 4 and 5 shall be promulgated by the Office of Academic Affairs subject to the approval of the relevant STL faculty committee or of the faculty.



4. Consequences of Violations of the Academic Integrity Code

A violation of the academic integrity code may lead to consequences, including the following. The below list is illustrative and STL may require other consequences or demand other conduct based on the circumstances of each case.

- 4.1 In cases where the gravity of the academic integrity violation is severe or where a student refuses to or does not comply with the disciplinary measures imposed by STL, referral of the academic integrity violation to PKU disciplinary procedures with the corresponding possible penalties of warning letters, notations in the permanent file, probation, and expulsion.
- 4.2 Failure of the course or courses in which the academic integrity code was violated.
- 4.3 A loss of good academic standing for a certain period depending on the gravity of the violation with return to good standing being conditional on the satisfaction of requirements set by STL.
- 4.4 Loss of eligibility for or removal from co-curricular programs for a certain period depending on the gravity of the violation.
- 4.5 Loss of eligibility for certain courses for a certain period or requirements to take certain courses.
- 4.6 Reduction of quarterly credit limits.
- 4.7 Loss of eligibility for scholarships, awards, or prizes.
- 4.8 Loss of eligibility for nominations for other honors.
- 4.9 Loss of eligibility for nomination or recommendations for internships or post-graduate employment opportunities.
- 4.10 Loss of eligibility for designation as passing the comprehensive student quality assessment for the year in which the academic integrity violation was committed.
- 4.11 When required by a licensing authority such as a bar association and the student consents to that authority inquiring with STL as to any record of having been investigated for an academic integrity violation or having found to have violated an obligation, disclosure to the licensing authority of that investigation or finding; and
- 4.12 When required by a prospective employer and the student consents to that employer inquiring with STL as to any record of a finding of an academic integrity violation, disclosure to the employer of that investigation or finding.



5. Procedures for Investigation and Findings of Academic Integrity Violations

- 5.1 These procedures for the investigation and findings of violations of the Code are promulgated by the STL Academic Integrity Committee (“Committee”).
- 5.2 Investigations, meetings with students subject to investigation for an academic integrity violation, and referrals to the Committee shall be made by the Office of Academic Affairs or by a member of the faculty designated by the Dean, such as the Chair of the Committee.
- 5.3 In case the functions described above are discharged by a designated faculty member, the Office of Academic Affairs shall serve as the secretariat for the investigation and disciplinary processes.
- 5.4 An investigation of a possible academic integrity violation may be initiated in any of the following ways:
 - a. By a faculty member’s report of a possible academic integrity violation;
 - b. By the Office of Academic Affairs upon a tentative finding of a possible academic integrity violation; or
 - c. By a student’s report of a possible academic integrity violation.

Anonymous complaints will not be accepted.

- 5.5 Upon receipt of a report or a tentative finding, the Office of Academic Affairs or designated faculty member must investigate the alleged violation. If the Office of Academic Affairs or the designated faculty member find that even if the alleged facts are true that there would be no violation of the Code or any violation would be *de minimis*, the Office or the faculty member may dismiss any or all allegations before the seven days before which a report must be provided in section 5.6. In such cases, the decision must be communicated in writing to the Committee.
- 5.6 Within seven days beginning after the day on which a report of an academic integrity violation is provided or of a tentative finding of a possible academic integrity violation, the Office of Academic Affairs shall inform the student in writing of the alleged violation.

The written notification must include the nature of the alleged violation and materials facts as known and the sections of the Academic Integrity Code that have been potentially infringed.



If the alleged violation is of the type for which documentation is by nature available, such as in cases of alleged plagiarism, such documentation, including Turnitin reports, must also be provided to the student.

The notification above must also be provided to the Committee.

- 5.7 Either simultaneous with or with the notification described in section 5, the student must be invited to a meeting with the Office of Academic Affairs or designated faculty member to discuss the alleged violations.
- 5.8 At the meeting, the student may
- a. Admit to having committed the alleged conduct and to a violation or violations of relevant sections of the Code,
 - b. Deny having committed the alleged conduct, or
 - c. Admit to having committed the alleged conduct but raise defenses.
- 5.9 Within five days after the meeting or within five days after being invited to a meeting if the student declines to meet, the student may submit views in writing with respect to the alleged violation or violations.
- 5.10 Settlement: The Office of Academic Affairs or designated faculty member may also reach a consensual settlement regarding an academic integrity violation prior to the issuance of a written decision. Such settlement must be communicated to the Committee, which may elect by majority vote within a reasonable time not to permit the settlement.
- 5.11 After a meeting, within a reasonable time, the Office of Academic Affairs or designated faculty member shall decide whether there were violations of the Code and communicate the written decision to the student. Any consequences or penalties must also be communicated. The decision may (1) dismiss any or all allegations of violations of the Code, (2) find violations of the code and impose penalties, consequences, or conditions, or (3) refer the matter to the disciplinary procedures of PKU.
- 5.12 Within seven days after the day on which the written decision is provided to the student, the student may request an appeal of any findings of violations of the Code or of the penalties or consequences imposed, including a decision to refer the matter to the disciplinary procedures of PKU. Such communication must be made to the Office of Academic Affairs or to the designated faculty member.



- 5.13 Upon receipt of such a communication, the Office of Academic Affairs or designated faculty member shall request the Committee to hear the student's request for reconsideration.
- 5.14 The designated faculty member or officer of Academic Affairs shall not vote with respect to the communication but shall serve as the secretariat for the hearing.
- 5.15 A Committee member who has a conflict of interest in the case due to having a special relationship with the accused student or the informant (e.g., the faculty is a relative, family friend, supervisor, etc., of the student, or the faculty is the person who alleged a violation by the student), the committee member has the duty to disclose the conflict and shall not serve in the Committee with respect to the student's alleged violations.
- 5.16 In the event a hearing is scheduled, the hearing shall be organized by the Office of Academic Affairs or designated faculty member. Notice shall be provided to the time, place, and procedure of the hearing to the student at least three days before the hearing. The hearing may be rescheduled when necessary.

Each hearing shall either be recorded, or notes should be taken.

- 5.17 The student shall have a right to submit written views prior to the hearing, invite a fellow student to be present so long as the invitation is notified in advance to the Office of Academic Affairs or designated faculty member, for the hearing to be held in confidence, to present evidence and testimony, and to speak in the student's language of choice so long as the student communicates that choice at least two days before the hearing so that arrangements can be made for translation for the Committee.
- 5.18 A student may waive a hearing when invited and may opt to submit views in writing within the designated deadline provided by the Office of Academic Affairs or designated faculty member.
- 5.19 Supplementary views or evidence submitted after the hearing by the student may be accepted only with the consent of the Committee.
- 5.20 After the hearing or in the absence of a hearing in case the student waives a hearing or does not attend, the Committee shall decide the student's request for reconsideration. The decision shall be made in writing and communicated to the student. The Committee may affirm, modify, or reverse the prior decision of the Office of Academic Affairs or faculty member. It may modify the penalties or consequences imposed, including increasing the penalties or consequences.



- 5.21 Appeal to the Dean: A student who disagrees with the determination of the Committee has fifteen days to file a written appeal directly with the Dean. The Dean may uphold, modify, or reverse the decision of the Committee. The Dean may also remand the matter to the Committee with instructions.
- 5.22 Time Periods: The time periods provided in these procedures do not include PKU holidays or weekends. Notwithstanding such exclusion, the Office of Academic Affairs or designated faculty member may shorten the periods in view of the specific circumstances and with written notice to the student. The time periods may also be extended for reasonable cause and with written notice to the student.
- 5.23 Annual Statistics: The Office of Academic Affairs will, on an annual basis, anonymize the details of matters in which violations of the Code were found and publish information regarding such matters to the faculty. Basic information may also be published to STL's student body.



Appendix: Examples of Plagiarism

Examples of plagiarism include the following. The examples below are provided for your reference but are not intended to be an exclusive list of all instances that can be considered plagiarism.

- A student copies or pastes excerpts from blog posts into his research paper without providing a citation or other attribution to the post. The student has directly copied expression and ideas from another without providing attribution and has committed plagiarism.
- A student conducts research using journal articles and books. The student adopts ideas from the articles or books and expresses those ideas in her own language in her paper but does not provide citations to the journal articles and books. The student has used the ideas of others in her writing without providing attribution and has committed plagiarism.
- A student translates a passage from one language to another, paraphrasing a passage, or changing some words, without giving attribution to the original author.
- A student attends a class where an instructor shares her slides and a draft article with the class. The student uses sentences and ideas from the slides and draft article and adds them to his paper without indicating that the sentences and ideas come from the instructor. The student has used the expression and ideas of another person without providing attribution and has committed plagiarism.
- A student submits a paper in which she has copied text from an online encyclopedia. She changes some of the words in the text so they are slightly different from the original text in the encyclopedia and does not indicate that the text is borrowed. The student is still using the expression and ideas of others without providing attribution and has committed plagiarism. In this instance, the student was still required to indicate that the text was borrowed because she has not paraphrased the text *and* she is required to provide attribution to the source.
- A student submits a paper in which he has borrowed text from various sources. He includes footnotes to those sources but does not indicate where he has borrowed the exact or un-paraphrased text from the original sources. He has borrowed the expression of others without attribution and has committed plagiarism. He was required both to indicate that he is borrowing ideas and borrowing text.