

# Honor Code and Collaboration Policy

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*IMSA - Igniting and Nurturing Creative, **Ethical** Scientific Minds that Advance the Human Condition*

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IMSA is dedicated to producing ethical leaders. To do so, we must address ethical situations and dilemmas and how to resolve them.

Trust is vital to a community. This course aims to be a community of learning, and therefore requires that students and teacher enjoy mutual respect and trust.

Ethical situations come in a number of different forms. In academia, most ethical situations revolve around academic dishonesty, which includes, but is certainly not limited to, *cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, obtaining an unfair advantage, unauthorized access to records or systems, and facilitating academic dishonesty regardless of intent*. For additional information on academic dishonesty, consult the Academic Integrity section of the Student Handbook.

Most violations of academic integrity at this Academy seem to be of two broad types: (1) a student wanting to receive a grade one has not earned, or (2) a student lacks time to complete work properly. One must not mistake the two types above: the first type is outright stealing, while the second type implicitly includes a desire to do work properly without the necessary means.

One common example of academic dishonesty is *inappropriate collaboration*. *Collaboration is not a euphemism for copying*. Collaboration is a mutual sharing of ideas to achieve a common goal. Cheating involves taking ideas from someone else who has achieved part or all of the goal.

In this course, you will be expected to collaborate in small groups on worksheets and assignments. Whatever form your work takes, the final product must be yours. One guideline for collaboration is that you may freely discuss a problem with members of your workgroup while you are attempting to solve it, but once the problem has been solved, communication must stop so that each group member owns their final product. Inappropriate collaboration would include working with someone outside your group on any aspect of the project or working with anyone else on the final product.

The Honor Code for this course is:

**The student and teacher will behave in such a way to promote a community of learning based on respect, equity, and trust. To promote respect, we will acknowledge the individual contributions of each student. To promote equity, we will not attempt to obtain unfair advantages over classmates. To promote trust, we will hold ourselves and the other members of our community to these standards.**

When students can be trusted to maintain the spirit and community of the course, more learning opportunities are possible than those prescribed by the rigid course Syllabus.

This document affords students more than enough flexibility to handle any situation well. Therefore, *there will be no sympathy if you violate this Honor Code*. Violating students should expect, at minimum, to receive no credit for the assessments in question.