**Academic Integrity Questions**

**Question 1:** You realize that another student is looking at your test paper, but you don’t make any effort to cover your paper. The other student is obviously cheating, but are you guilty of academic dishonesty?

a) Yes  
b) No  
c) Maybe

**Question 2:** Your professor has stated that for your take-home exam you may only consult library books, class notes, texts, and the professor. You and your roommate discussed one of the questions, but you write your own answer. Is this a problem?

a) Yes  
b) No  
c) Maybe

**Question 3:** You have been ill and have fallen behind in your classes. You want to ask your professor for an “incomplete,” but you’re not sure of her answer. You didn’t see a doctor this time, but you have a doctor’s excuse from a previous illness. You decide to alter the previous doctor’s excuse and use it for the current situation. Is this a problem?

a) Yes, a major one  
b) No, not really  
c) Maybe

**Question 4:** As the professor hands back the results of the first test in your large lecture class, she encourages all students to check their papers carefully and resubmit any test that may have been incorrectly graded. You notice in your paper that you inadvertently left out a sentence, which changed the meaning of your answer. Since you knew the material at the time of the test, you pencil in the omitted sentence and resubmit the paper for grading. Is this a problem?

a) Yes  
b) No  
c) Maybe

**Question 5:** You have a lab class that requires you to collect survey data from 100 students and write a report based on your results. You only have time to collect 25 surveys. You believe, based on the law of averages, that the results from the 25 surveys will basically be the same as results you would obtain from 100 surveys, so you make-up the rest of the data. Is this a problem?

a) Yes, a major problem  
b) No, not really  
c) Maybe

**Question 6:** It is late at night and your paper is due at 9:00 a.m. the next day. You used a lot of material from a couple of books, but you didn’t quote anything and, therefore, you didn’t include any footnotes. Is this plagiarism or just sloppy work?

a) Yes  
b) No  
c) Maybe

**Question 7:** At the end of a tough semester, you are having trouble focusing on your term paper. You have acquired “research material” from the World Wide Web that will get you started with information and organization. Under the gun, you decide to make a few minor changes to the materials you found and turn it in as your paper. Should you?

a) Yes  
b) No  
c) Maybe

**Question 8:** You came to CSUB to major in its top-rated Nursing program; however, the introductory course has been a bit tedious. You haven’t kept up with the reading, and you are unprepared for the mid-term. So you decide to include a few crib-notes in the back of your bluebook for reference during the exam. Is this cheating? After all, don’t you just need this class on your record so that you can get on to the important stuff?

a) Yes  
b) No, never a good idea  
c) Maybe

(Adapted with permission from University of Southern California)
Academic Integrity Answers

**Answer to Question 1:** Yes. Even though you and the other student didn’t work together, once you became aware that the other student was looking at your paper, it was your responsibility to take steps to make it difficult for him to cheat.

**Answer to Question 2:** Yes, it is called collusion. Studying together before the test would have been all right, but once you had the test and knew the questions, the professor expected you to do all the thinking about the answers by yourself.

**Answer to Question 3:** Not a good idea. Falsifying documents is dishonesty, whether or not the falsification supports “the truth.” Faculty have a tendency to check on medical excuses, so apart from undermining your own integrity, you stand a good chance of being caught. Students often neglect the obvious in this kind of case: talk to your professor. He or she may be able to offer suggestions or alternatives for relieving your situation.

**Answer to Question 4:** Yes. Unfortunately, the professor cannot grade your good intentions. Tests submitted for regrading may not be altered in any way. By the way, professors are encouraged to photocopy exams before returning them to students and, therefore, can clearly track any new markings on exams submitted for regrading.

**Answer to Question 5:** A major one! It is unacceptable for researchers to fabricate data based on what they think will occur. As a student, making up data defeats the educational purpose of your assignment, and if others use your data, the effects could be far-reaching and negative. Instead of falsifying the data for your assignment, base your results on the sample size you were able to collect.

**Answer to Question 6:** This is plagiarism. Submitting someone else’s work for credit as if it were your own is plagiarism. If you are unsure about when to use quotations and footnotes, be sure to talk to your professor before submitting the paper.

**Answer to Question 7:** Don’t! Faculty have an uncanny ability to spot papers that were not written for their classes or which are not your work, and the consequences to you are severe. In fact, don’t acquire (borrow, download or purchase) a paper for “research purposes.” You almost certainly can come up with better material yourself, and you avoid the temptation of doing the wrong thing at the last minute. Researching term papers is an integral part of your university education – don’t short-change yourself.

**Answer to Question 8:** This is never a good idea. First, you cheat yourself out of important knowledge you will need later. If the course is graded competitively, you cheat others as well. And if you are caught (notes in a bluebook is a well-known form of cheating) you may defeat your purpose.