

Why Do I Need to Report Cases?

Oftentimes, a faculty member will ask why they should report a case of academic misconduct. This is an important question as handling cases of alleged academic dishonesty through the University's formal process and procedures is vital to the promotion of academic integrity. Three reasons why you should report cases are listed below:

- 1) It ensures that you are acting in accordance to the University's guidelines. This protects you as well as the student.
- 2) It ensures that the University has a central location to keep track of those who violate the Undergraduate Honor Code, which allows repeat offenders to be sanctioned accordingly.
- 3) The final point to note, though there are many more, is that by reporting cases you help to decrease academic dishonesty. Most students realize that it is wrong to engage in academic dishonesty. The decision to cheat is sometimes based on a cost-benefit analysis. A student who is considering whether or not to cheat will commonly consider the likelihood of them being caught, as well as what will happen to them if they are caught. They weigh that against the reward of potentially receiving a better grade in the course. Thus, it is critical that when you identify academic dishonesty that you ensure that it is handled through the appropriate process and procedures and that the student is sanctioned appropriately. This decreases the perceived "benefit" associated with academic dishonesty.