

SEVEN GRANDFATHERS IN ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

“The traditional concepts of respect and sharing, that form the foundation of the Aboriginal way of all life, are built around the seven natural laws or sacred teachings. Each teaching honours one of the basic virtues that are necessary for a full and healthy life.” — Ontario Native Literacy Coalition¹

The teachings of the Seven Grandfathers were given to the Anishinaabe people, providing a foundation for personal responsibility. These traditional cultural values demonstrate the interconnectedness of one’s actions with the lived environment and also offer a way of understanding and being in our academic environment.

The University of Toronto has developed policies and procedures to deal with academic honesty, outline students’ responsibilities in their learning and set the groundwork to create a fair community. The Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters can be understood through the Seven Grandfathers’ teachings; the quotations below come from the Ontario Native Literacy Coalition and are followed by tips for being a student at U of T.

Have Respect for everything that is around you.

If borrowing any words or phrases from other sources be sure to acknowledge these by proper quotation, reference and citation.

Wisdom “does not come from age, but from knowledge and experience”: speak well and use logic and reason.

When using others’ knowledge and experience, ensure that your sources are reliable and scholarly. Wikipedia is not a scholarly source.

The “message of Love comes from the heart”: express your own ideas, based in your passion for truth and mutual responsibility.

As a U of T student, these values are embedded in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters.

Bravery involves doing something, “even in the midst of danger or personal sacrifice,” such as asking for help or speaking up when you don’t agree.

If you’re running out of time on an assignment and you need to ask for an extension, accept the late penalty or take the loss of marks you would have earned if you had submitted the work.

Have Humility in your work: take responsibility for what you have done and what you have not done.

Do not exchange answers or share your work with others unless it is a group project.

Be Honest: it “may be difficult and challenging at times but it is always the best policy.”

No unauthorized aids or electronic devices are allowed in tests or exams.

Speak the Truth, even when it “can be difficult to do, believe or accept.”

It is an offense to submit work for credit that has already been marked in another assignment; don’t impersonate others or steal ideas and present them as your own.

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¹ Teachings of the Seven Sacred/Seven Grandfathers, 2014. Available at <http://onlc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/7-Grandfathers-Student-Manual1.pdf>



From the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters:

The University and its members have a responsibility to ensure that a climate which might encourage, or conditions which might enable, cheating, misrepresentation or unfairness not be tolerated. To this end, all must acknowledge that seeking credit or other advantages by fraud or misrepresentation, or seeking to disadvantage others by disruptive behaviour is unacceptable, as is any dishonesty or unfairness in dealing with the work or record of a student.

Wherever in this Code an offence is described as depending on “knowing”, the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known.

1. It shall be an offence for a student knowingly:

- (a) to forge or in any other way alter or falsify any document or evidence required by the University, or to utter, circulate or make use of any such forged, altered or falsified document, whether the record be in print or electronic form;
- (b) to use or possess an unauthorized aid or aids or obtain unauthorized assistance in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work;
- (c) to personate another person, or to have another person personate, at any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work;
- (d) to represent as one’s own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism (for a more detailed account of plagiarism, see Appendix “A”);
- (e) to submit, without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere;
- (f) to submit any academic work containing a purported statement of fact or reference to a source which has been concocted.

It is also an offense “to engage in any form of cheating, academic dishonesty or misconduct, fraud or misrepresentation not herein otherwise described, in order to obtain academic credit or other academic advantage of any kind.” You can see the full Code of Academic Behaviours at governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm.

You can also take a look at Margaret Proctor’s “How Not to Plagiarize,” from the University of Toronto Writing Centres: advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize

Want to know more?

Centre for Learning Strategy Support has resources, workshops, events and appointments to support you:

- Email us at clss@utoronto.ca
- look us up online at learningstrategy.utoronto.ca
- or give us a call at 416.978.7970

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- online at fnh.utoronto.ca
- or call us at **416.978.8227**