

AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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ADMISSION SCANDAL

FEDERAL PROSECUTORS SAY PARENTS PAID ABOUT \$25 MILLION TO GET THEIR STUDENTS INTO ELITE SCHOOLS LIKE THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, STANFORD, AND YALE AS PART OF THE SCHEME.



THE 'OTHER' COLLEGE SCANDAL: GRADE INFLATION HAS TURNED TRANSCRIPTS INTO MONOPOLY MONEY

- Consider these facts: A 50-plus-year nationwide study of the history of college grading finds that, in the early 1960s, an A grade was awarded in colleges nationwide 15 percent of the time. But today, an A is the most common grade given in college; the percentage of A grades has tripled, to 45 percent nationwide. Seventy-five percent of all grades awarded now are either A's and B's. The National Association of Colleges and Employers reported in 2013 that "66 percent of employers screen candidates by grade point average (GPA)."

DEGREE BUYING AND SCANDAL

- Prosecutors say in late 2001, Cynthia Richard paid \$1,500 to an unnamed Southern official for a fake master's degree in Special Education from Southern University. They say she then sent a fake transcript showing she completed five semesters worth of work to the State Department of Education to get a teaching certificate.

WHAT ARE UNIVERSITIES DOING TO ADVANCE INTEGRITY IN THE PROGRAMS

- *University governance should be based on the good governance principles of participation, accountability, and transparency.*
- Oregon State University example:
- <https://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/academic-misconduct-students>
- <https://studentlife.oregonstate.edu/studentconduct/academicmisconduct-faculty>
- <https://courses.ecampus.oregonstate.edu/oer/academic-misconduct/>

ANTI- PLAGIARISM TOOLS

- Scribbr <https://www.scribbr.com>
- Ephorus/Turnitin <https://www.ephorus.com>
- Quetext <https://www.quetext.com>
- Copyscape <https://www.copyscape.com>
- Grammarly <https://www.grammarly.com>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY RATING SYSTEM (AIRS) CRITERIA

- The ICAI defines academic integrity as a **commitment**, even in the face of adversity to five fundamental values; honesty, **trust**, **fairness**, **respect** and **responsibility**, plus the **courage** to act on them even in the face of adversity.
- See: https://www.academicintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/462c19_c8165fbbd8284f7fa17d3dcf561a9c96.pdf

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Institutions you will be working with can be expected to be reluctant to share their difficulties during the process of accreditation. But you can play a key role in promoting the importance of their establishing clear policies on academic corruption, including penalties.
- Quality assurance professionals can and should challenge the threats from corruption, working proactively to raise awareness, producing guidelines, highlighting and raising questions about institutional practices.
- Accreditors are encouraged to work together about how you influence practices, attitudes and perhaps even help change the culture of cheating and corruption.



THANK YOU
AND
GOOD
LUCK!

