

FSPAC
Students' Code of Ethics

Rules on academic integrity and plagiarism

1. Introduction and definitions

Academic integrity is an essential component of FSPAC's institutional culture. As part of the educational programs and didactic activities in which they participate, at FSPAC students are provided with opportunities to become familiarized with the principles and rules of academic integrity.

Any deviation from the rules of academic integrity is considered academic fraud and is penalized according to the seriousness of the act. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that assignments, submitted papers and tasks performed during the FSPAC university studies do not include deviations from the rules of academic integrity. It is also the responsibility of the student to seek clarification whenever she or he has uncertainties and to request assistance in the verification of the norms of good conduct in carrying out written assignments.

In general, the notion of plagiarism refers to the illegitimate takeover, with or without intent, by an author, of intellectual products and presenting them as her or his own work. Therefore, plagiarism is generally considered a form of intellectual theft.

In Romania, Law 206/2004 defines plagiarism as *deviation from the norms of good conduct in scientific research, technological development and innovation: “exposure in a written work or oral communication, including in electronic format, of texts, expressions, ideas, demonstrations, data, hypotheses, theories, results or scientific methods extracted from written works, including in electronic format, of others authors, without mentioning this and without referring to the original sources ”* (**Law 206/2004, art. 4. lit. d.**).

Since plagiarism is a form of academic fraud with serious consequences, FSPAC policies aim at getting students accustomed with the principle of zero tolerance to any form of this type of academic dishonesty.

2. Types of academic fraud

- 1) Copying from a colleague during examination, copying assignments, tasks or other works from colleagues;
- 2) The fraudulent use of notes or other sources (including electronic) within one examination without the knowledge of the course/seminar holder; non-compliance with the requirements stipulated by the holder of the course/seminar for home-works or written exams, other forms of cheating;
- 3) Granting permission to copy to a colleague or to submit a work as her/his own;
- 4) Submission of an assignment/project made by another person than the signatory, obtained against payment;

- 5) Sending the same paper to several courses/seminars (multiple submission) without notification and approval of the holder of the course/seminar;
- 6) Falsification of data used in assignments/projects, other forms of misleading teaching staff;
- 7) Accepting a grade for a group project in which the student did not participate;
- 8) Plagiarism.

3. Types of plagiarism

- 1) Assuming a work done by someone else, a text in whole or only in part, regardless to the size of the copied parts included in the paper;
- 2) Adaptation of copied content, changing keywords, but keeping formal and verbal structures, without crediting the source;
- 3) Adaptation of copied content, modifying the structure, but keeping the central ideas, without crediting the source;
- 4) Exact copy of passages without marking them correctly as quoted, but using references correctly, suggesting a paraphrase.

4. Sanctions applied in cases of academic fraud other than plagiarism

Depending on the seriousness of the act, the following sanctions apply:

- 1) Elimination from the examination, failing the subject without losing the right to participate in the re-examination;
- 2) Elimination from the exam, failing the subject and losing the right to participate in the re-examination, with the obligation to repeat the discipline in the following year;

5. Sanctions applied in cases of PLAGIARISM

- 1) Loss of the points due for the activity (paper, assignment or project), as specified in the syllabus, in which plagiarism is detected. This sanction comes with a verbal or written reprimand, depending on the seriousness of the deed.
- 2) Failing the subject, with or without losing the right to participate in the re-examination, depending on the seriousness of the act. Additionally, other sanctions provided by University regulations may be applied, including expulsion of the student.
- 3) In the case of the dissertation/bachelor thesis, depending on the gravity of the act, the following sanctions apply: re-doing the work and presenting it in a later session; non-promotion of the thesis defense, prohibition of the right to pass the FSPAC bachelor exam in the future. The teacher may request the Ethics Commission to investigate the case and decide further sanctions as stipulated in the UBB regulations.

6. Sanctioning procedures

For the sanctioning, the action of the teacher is sufficient. In case of the student's appeal (filed within 48 hours from the communication of the decision) a commission of 3 members may be formed (tenured teaching or research staff), appointed by the department director to further investigate and resolve the dispute.

The teacher who noticed the fraud and took action cannot be a member in the 3-member committee appointed by the department director. When deemed necessary, the commission may hold hearings of all the parties involved in order to make a decision on the case.

Where appropriate, the case may also be referred to the FSPAC Ethics Committee or the Ethics Committee of UBB. The FSPAC Ethics Committee can be notified by both the teacher and/or the student. The consultation of the UBB Ethics Committee is proposed by the FSPAC Ethics Committee, in cases when the expulsion of the student is proposed.

7. Final remarks

In the case of BA or MA dissertations and doctoral theses elaborated within FSPAC, the authors will submit a written statement of non-plagiarism. To detect attempts of plagiarism, special software (like Turnitin) or other resources at the disposal of FSPAC and UBB may be deployed.