

HLC Fact of the Day:
“HLC Assurance Argument: Core Component 2E”
(with specific focus on “academic honesty”)
(September 1, 2017)

In the HLC Criteria for Accreditation, Core Component 2E says: *The institution has and enforces policies on academic honesty and integrity.*

In our Assurance Argument being prepared for HLC, this is what we say regarding academic honesty:

Lindenwood University has a strong commitment to academic honesty and integrity. [Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures](#) are published in all catalogs, in every syllabus, on the student portal, and in the student handbook. These policies include definitions of plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct. In the event of an offense, faculty must complete the [Academic Dishonesty Form](#). These policies specify that, on the first offense, the penalty (e.g., zero on the assignment) is determined by the instructor; in addition, the student must complete an online tutorial on proper procedure for citing sources of information as well as discussions of other forms of academic dishonesty. For undergraduate students, a second offense will result in failure of the class. Undergraduate students must sign an [integrity contract](#) after the second offense; graduates after the first offense. An [academic honesty review committee](#) considers whether undergraduates should be expelled after a third reported offense and graduates after a second. The Associate Provost maintains an ongoing confidential record of academic dishonesty offenses; [annual aggregation](#) suggests that faculty consistently hold students accountable for misconduct.

The University also strongly encourages faculty to use the *TurnItIn* program for all writing assignments. *TurnItIn* both discourages dishonesty (because students know the system checks for plagiarism) and detects it. It also helps ensure that faculty reports of dishonesty are legitimate and that students will have an opportunity to understand what they did wrong. The total number of Lindenwood paper submissions to *TurnItIn* from July 2015 through July 2017 was 166,878.

Lindenwood is committed to total academic honesty and integrity from its students. This expectation begins before a student is ever enrolled and is clearly stated throughout the admissions process. This high standard of integrity during the admissions process sets the stage for what is expected of students once they are enrolled. The [application for admission](#) is one of the first steps of the admittance process and every Lindenwood student is required to complete an application. At the end of the application, a statement that reads,

“I affirm that all information supplied is complete and accurate. I understand that my misrepresentation or change of facts could be cause for refusal of admissions, cancellation of admission, or suspension from the University. I authorize all educational institutions I have attended to release official transcripts or other information relevant to this application to Lindenwood.”

The student is required to sign and date this statement confirming their understanding that Lindenwood expects and requires academic honesty and integrity of all its students and applicants.

To ensure that students who register in an online or hybrid course or program are the same students who participate in and complete the course or program and receive the academic credit, Lindenwood

instructors administer a comprehensive student [authentication policy](#), approved by Faculty Council on June 23, 2016, and effective in fall 2016.

The university's policies on [academic integrity](#) are described in detail in the Student Handbook, which is distributed to all students and is posted on the website. The [Student Handbook](#) includes an explanation of the university's policy on recording devices and their use in the classroom. As noted in 2B, all course syllabi reference a location ([central repository for university policies](#)) where a variety of course policies can be accessed. There, the student can find language on academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and an explanation of the penalties for committing plagiarism; and language on proper use of resources in academic work, including proper citation of sources and the expectation that students and faculty abide by copyright laws.

To learn more about accreditation and Lindenwood's comprehensive evaluation and site visit scheduled for November 6-7, 2017, and to see the countdown clock to the visit, go to the HLC page on the Lindenwood website here: <http://www.lindenwood.edu/about/higher-learning-commission/>.

Past HLC Facts are archived [here](#).

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