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New Insights into Academic Integrity

2022 Update



Is Concern About Academic Integrity Falling?

In this update to our Spring 2020 report on academic integrity, we assessed instructor and students' experiences and challenges with academic misconduct.

Wiley received 2,868 instructor responses, of which 23 percent are WileyPLUS users and 77 percent non-users. Student responses numbered 682, with 64 percent being WileyPLUS users and 36 percent non-users.

The survey was sent to college educators in the United States and Canada, with 60 percent of respondents from the U.S. and 31 percent from Canada.

After the rapid transition to remote instruction in spring 2020, concern among educators' academic integrity skyrocketed with 93 percent of instructors surveyed reporting they felt students are more likely to cheat online than in-person.

In Wiley's latest survey, the overall percentage of instructors who felt students are more likely to cheat online fell by 16 percent.



When asked what the biggest challenges/ concerns academic misconduct created for instructors since the pandemic, five rose to the top.



2021 Survey Breakdown: Instructors more likely to feel students cheat more online compared to in-person courses

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2021

Anatomy & Physiology instructors

Chemistry instructors

77%

Which Course Delivery Formats Concern Instructors the Most?





These instructor cohorts have the greatest level of concern around academic integrity.





Is it Easier to Cheat? Students Say Yes and No.

Cheating Online

A majority of students surveyed in fall 2021 stated that cheating was easier online than in-person, confirming instructor fears. A full **59 percent of respondents said it was easier to significantly easier to cheat online.**



Of Note...

67 percent of 4-year private school students stated it was easier to significantly easier to cheat.

The percentage of Seniors graduating in 2021 was the same, with 67 percent stating it is easier to significantly easier to cheat.





Has the Pandemic Made it Easier to Cheat?

Student respondents were near evenly split on this question with 51 percent saying the pandemic has made it easier, and 14 percent saying it's harder.



When Wiley asked students if they were more likely to cheat now versus pre-pandemic, the majority said they were not more or less likely to cheat. These cohorts, in particular believe cheating is easier now than before the pandemic.



Keep in mind that even though a majority of students believe cheating is easier to significantly easier, it does not mean the majority of students are cheating.



Significantly less likely/ Less likely

Not more or less likely

Significantly more likely/ More likely

Catching Students Cheating: How Many Get Busted?

Percentage of Cheating Based on Modality

Based on those instructors who caught 20 percent or less of their class engaged in cheating, the percentage of students caught varied little across the modalities.



33 percent

of students were not concerned about the effects of cheating. 15 percent said it didn't affect their ability to learn the material, while an additional 15 percent said it wouldn't affect them in the long-term (after graduation).

Wiley asked instructors what percentage of students they caught cheating over the last year. Over 60 percent of respondents nabbed between 1-20 percent of their class engaged in academic dishonesty. The percentage of instructors who caught zero percent of students was a surprising 25-31 percent across the three modalities.



6 In general, when we look at the years and years of data, you tend to see that instructors say that there's more cheating going on than students say that they're seeing. So, that's good news. The other thing that I would highlight and that people just never believe me when I say this, but from the data that ended in I guess about 2012, there was no increase in cheating rates across the board.

- Dr. David Rettinger, from his Wiley Wicked Summer Camp talk Director of Academic Programs at the University of Mary Washington and President Emeritus of the International Center for Academic Integrity

Mitigating Cheating: How Instructors Have Changed Things Up

Over the past semester, many instructors have used behavioral strategies to mitigate cheating, ranging from course design changes to discussing consequences. Let's break down what that looked like, keeping in mind that instructors may have employed multiple tactics.

Changes in Assessment



Used more Open-ended questions

Create Question pools

Gave more project-based assignments

Eliminated/Reduced MCQs

Assigned more essays

Raising Awareness



Lowered grade due to cheating

- Spoke to students about consequences more often
- Added section in syllabus

Mandatory signing of honor code

Of Note...



added more open-ended questions

47 percent of Biochemistry instructors

48 percent of Accounting, 55 percent of Finance instructors, and 41 percent of 2-Year schools created question pools



43 percent of Business and 42 percent of Finance instructors gave more group projects



their syllabi
46 percent of 2-Year school

instructors added a section in

49 percent of A&P

instructors added a section in their syllabi

43 percent of A&P instructors lowered student grades



Remote proctoring, while contentious, remains popular, with 55 percent of instructors have used online proctoring software in the past 12 months.

First, I tell my students every semester on the first day of class and before the first exam that I will not tolerate cheating on exams. I also try to modify make-up exams so that the answers to the questions are not the same as for the regularly scheduled exams. I also address cheating privately on a one-to-one or two-to-one

basis. Although students do not have to tell other students about these experiences, I feel better knowing that if these stories leak out, then students will know that I act ethically when I address cheating.

– Nicholas Zoller Southern Nazarene University **6** I set the tone right from the beginning that I explain the consequences. I have failed students in the past for cheating.

– Michelle Randall Schoolcraft College

Why Students Cheat

In a panel discussion hosted by Wiley about academic integrity, Dr. Tricia Bertram Gallant, the Director of the UC San Diego Academic Integrity Office and Board Member of the International Center for Academic Integrity stated, "The research tells us that people are more likely to engage in dishonesty when they're under stress and pressure and when they're in a situation where the norms are unclear and there are temptations and opportunities."

Under Pressure



Workload



Relevancy



Too much work

Hard to balance school with other responsibilities

Assignments perceived as busy work

I am more likely to cheat if content/ material isn't relevant to me

I am more likely to cheat if content/ material isn't relevant to my major

I am concerned I won't be ready for the real world since it's easier to cheat

49 percent of Finance majors feel pressure because of cost of degree

Of Note...

35 percent of 4-Year private school students say other students cheating adds pressure

34 percent of Business majors believe they receive too much busy work





66 The actual belief that their peers are cheating is one of the most important predictors of academic dishonesty. Being surrounded by cheaters has an almost contagious effect.

– Dr. David Rettinger

Director of Academic Programs at the University of Mary Washington and President Emeritus of the International Center for Academic Integrity

Why Students Cheat (continued)

Students' Reasons for Attending School Affect Academic Dishonesty with Family Pressure and Desire to Make Money Leading Factors



% who are likely to cheat, based on motivation to attend school (%=top two; likely/very likely to cheat)

Students who are concerned about getting caught, unsure about the delivery of exams, not sure how to apply what they are learning and are in a bad mental state, are more likely to cheat.

% who are likely to cheat, based on biggest concerns are for coming semester (%=top two; likely/very likely to cheat)



What Students Say Will Reduce Likelihood of Cheating



Less likely if proctoring software is used

Less likely if getting caught lowers grade

Knowing Consequences



Too much work

Hard to balance school with other responsibilities

Honor Codes Work, But...



Percentage of students less likely to cheat if they have to sign an honor code

Percentage of instructors who made students sign an honor code this past year



73%

of students surveyed say they are **less likely to** cheat if they think they're likely to get caught.





of students responded that they be less likely to cheat if instructor lists consequences within syllabus.

Of Note...

80 percent of 2-Year school students say they are less likely to cheat if grade is impacted

63 percent of 2-Year school students say they are less likely to cheat if instructors discusses consequences





34 percent of Business majors believe they receive too much busy work



66 One of the simplest things I do is show my students I am deeply invested in the academic integrity of the class. My syllabus contains strict language which warns students about the enforcement of our school's code of academic integrity. I require every student the week before our quarter starts to achieve a near-perfect score on a quiz containing examples of academic dishonesty. Weekly discussion sessions, whether face-to-face or online, remind students I have no tolerance for cheating. And, the last question on each test asks students if they strictly abided by our school's academic integrity requirements.

– Dr. Max Chao Full-time Lecturer, UC Irvine

Methodology

Survey was conducted by email and sent to 133,589 instructors and 1,764 students. The survey was open from September 15–September 29, 2021.

The instructor sample size comprised 2,868 instructors, 23 percent of whom used WileyPLUS and 77 percent non-users. 95 percent of instructors were U.S.-based,

Instructor Demographics

Size of School

30k or more	
	19%
20-30k	
	14%
12,001-20k	
	15%
7,501-12k	
	16%
7,500 or less	
	36%

Type of School	
4-Year public	
	52%
4-Year private	
	27%
2-Year public	
	22%
Other	
	5%
7,500 or less	

with 5 percent of respondents affiliated with Canadian institutions.

The student sample size comprised 682 students, 64 percent of whom used WileyPLUS and 36 percent non-users. Nearly 60 percent of students were U.S.-based, with 31 percent of respondents attending Canadian institutions.

Courses Taught

Business	Finance
20%	6%
Accounting	Statistics
16%	6%
Biology	Economics
15%	4%
Math	Biochemistry
15%	3%
Chemistry	Computer Science
11%	2%
Psychology	Engineering
11%	2%
Physics	Nutrition
8%	1%
Anatomy & Psychology	
Anatomy & Psychology	

Student Demographics

Size of School	Тур
30k or more	4-Ye
289	6
20-30k	4-Ye
159	/0
12,001-20k	2-Ye
169	/0
7,501-12k	Oth
149	/0
7,500 or less	7,50
279	6

Type of School	
4-Year public	
	62%
4-Year private	
	19%
2-Year public	
	11%
Other	
	8%
7,500 or less	
Type of Student	
Undergraduate	
	64%

36%



Math	
	2%
Biochemistry	
	1%
Engineering	
	1%

First Language

Non-English

English 74%