

To: Students

From: Dr. Rhonda Waskiewicz, Interim Dean, School of Education

Re: Academic Integrity

Date:

During the Spring, 2014 semester, a series of violations of our Academic Integrity Policy were discovered in the School of Education – Graduate Level courses. Our initial findings led to a more extensive internal originality scan of student work over the past several years. Through this effort additional incidents of academic dishonesty were discovered. All alleged incidents were thoroughly reviewed and sanctions were issued in accordance with the degree of the violation. Simultaneously, our Academic Integrity Policy was expanded to include more detailed information regarding the levels of infractions and the procedure for addressing violations.

Wilkes University in general and the School of Education in particular, are committed to offering you the highest quality education and the strongest opportunity to gain knowledge and skills that will enhance your efforts in furthering your career. In order to deliver on this commitment, there needs to be an assumption that the work submitted is the original work of the student. Without that assumption, assessing the student's growth and areas in need of strengthening becomes impossible.

You can expect that your instructors will be reinforcing this policy with you and there will be a reference to it in your course syllabus. It is important for you to recognize that securing your work is as important as submitting original work. The Academic Integrity Policy can be found on the Wilkes website on the Graduate Education page. <http://www.wilkes.edu/pages/5832.asp>

You will be asked to acknowledge that you have been made aware of the policy and that you have reviewed it. This may occur while you are applying for admission or within a course you are taking. Your acknowledgement will become a part of your permanent record so I strongly suggest that you read the policy carefully and request clarification as necessary. You can expect that originality scans will continue periodically throughout your coursework.

The majority of students at Wilkes produce original work and deserve this level of scrutiny to ensure that those who cheat do not have an unfair advantage. Please take this notice as an indication of our commitment to remain diligent in identifying incidents of plagiarism and in utilizing tools available to us to accomplish this task. I hope that this effort will enhance the value that you place on attaining your degree. I know that it has strengthened the integrity of the Graduate Education Program.