

**ENHANCING THE VALUE OF THE UA DEGREE:  
Improving Academic Integrity on Campus**

Submitted by:

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## **OVERVIEW OF DEPARTMENT**

The Dean of Students Office is the keeper of community on campus. It is the responsibility of this office to be both proactive and reactive to shifts in the student community to sustain a healthy, safe, ethical and productive student community. Our actions are designed to promote student success, retention and the joy of graduation. The areas that comprise the Dean of Students Office include Judicial Affairs, Parents & Family Programs, Crisis & Emergency Response, UA Facilitators, LGBTQ Affairs and Academic Integrity. This proposal focuses on Academic Integrity.

From 1999-2000 to 2006-2007, there has been a 348% increase in the total number of academic integrity cases (from 84 to 377). All academic integrity cases are reviewed and tracked by the Dean of Students Office.

Plagiarism has increased 733% between 1999-2000 and 2006-2007 (36 cases to an estimated 300). All of these cases are reviewed and tracked by the Dean of Students office.

Test modification is up 1500% from 1 in 2005-2006 to an estimated 16 in 2006-2007.

Since 7/20/06, 76,353 submissions have been made to Turnitin.com. 2492 papers matched with other sources 75-100% of the time. An acceptable level of outside sources would be between 40% and 60%. As educational sanctions for academic integrity violations increase, the Dean of Students Office expects the demand from students and faculty will increase dramatically.

**The rise in cases of academic integrity is of concern to all UA student and parents as they have the ability to reduce the value of the UA degree. This proposal is designed to intentionally reverse this trend to maintain and enhance the value of the UA degree.**

## **ABSTRACT OF PROPOSAL**

Bolstering the educational resources for students around issues of academic integrity will aid students in preparing better research papers in the classroom as well as strategically create a culture of individual and community ethics and integrity on campus. The positive impact of creating such a culture will extend far beyond the reach of the specific projects of this proposal and will affect all UA students and areas of the UA student community. Specific descriptions of project goals are detailed below. This proposal has the support of the UA Academic Integrity Advisory Council, a group comprised of faculty and staff committed to a campus community of ethics and integrity. All projects involved in this proposal would be supported by the Council.

This proposal will enhance educational resources for students in several ways:

- 1) A “Know the Code Campaign” designed to educate and promote an ethical community;
- 2) An Honor Pledge that will affirm the statement of community; and
- 3) Enhanced online educational tools to help students prepare better research papers.

## **DETAILED STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL**

**Number of Students Impacted/Benefited:** Research shows that this proposal will truly have an impact on the entire student community of 38,000+ undergraduate and graduate students.

**How Students will be served:** Students will be served in both active and passive methods that challenge them to improve the community in which they live. This proposal will utilize current students to be the voice of ethics and integrity on the UA campus through the creation of a student Advisory Board on Ethics and Integrity.

**Program Goals and Objectives:** The **Know the Code campaign** is designed to (1) educate students and faculty about the Code of Academic Integrity and its procedures; (2) promote a culture of ethics and integrity on campus; and (3) share the long term consequences of unethical decisions with students. A partnership with Career Services and Arizona Athletics, the Know the code campaign will feature faces of high profile athletes and business people along with statements like: “I only hire people who do their own work” or “Winners don’t cut corners.” This campaign will be in print, online and will have podcasts with short interviews from the famous faces featured in the campaign.

A **Student Advisory Board** will be created to foster additional leadership opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. The Student Advisory Board will work with other student groups to create an honor pledge that all students affirm at the start of their UA career. Additionally, this student advisory board will help the Dean of Students Office advise students on matters of academic integrity, create multi-media educational tools for students and faculty and serve as Ethics Ambassadors for the community. This Student Advisory Board would work closely with the UA Academic Integrity Advisory Council. This group could make significant inroads for education in Tier 1 General Education classes, where a significant majority of Academic Integrity violations originate. This Board will also assist in the creation of online resources for students.

The **Honor Pledge** will be a statement of community that all students affirm at the start of their UA career. This pledge will be key to promoting and environment of ethics, integrity and individual responsibility. National research has shown that when combined with robust educational resources an Honor Pledge will help to reduce matters of academic integrity on campus.

The effectiveness of these projects can be readily assessed. While we expect the number of academic integrity violations to initially increase with greater awareness on the faculty side, the educational campaign is anticipated to reduce the number of student violations within a three year period.

**THIS IS A NEW ACTIVITY DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE UA COMMUNITY.**

## **ITEMIZED BUDGET**

### **Know the Code Campaign**

**\$10,000**

Includes: print and multi-media materials for all students and Tier 1 course instructors; the materials for this campaign will be viewed campus wide

**COST PER STUDENT: \$0.26 for 38,000 students**

### **Student Advisory Board Operations**

**\$10,000**

Includes: expenses to get students into the classroom to advocate for matters of academic integrity and the creation of online resources to help students write better research papers and avoid issues of academic integrity

**COST PER STUDENT: \$0.26 for 38,000 students**

### **Honor Pledge**

**\$2,500**

Includes: resources to communicate the pledge to all incoming UA students

**COST PER STUDENT: \$0.26 for 9,500 new freshmen and transfer students**

### **TOTAL REQUESTED**

**\$22,500**

Additional funding for this project is being sought through the Student Service Fee allocation process. The Dean of Students Office will commit the staff time to ensuring this project is a success.

## **DEFINING SUCCESS**

This proposal will be successful in a number of ways. The easiest way to measure success is in the drop in Code of Academic Integrity cases filed against students. It is important to not look at this number alone, but rather the other ways that matters of ethics and integrity improve the UA student experience. These include reduced Student Code of Conduct violations, reduced theft, reduced violence and other important indicators of a healthy community. Additionally, the most important measure will be the rise in health choices.