

CHEATING

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both as a teacher and as a parent. She specifically recalled one instance where she suspected her daughter of cheating on a math test.

"When I asked her about it, her answer was pretty cavalier: 'Mom, it's just a math test,'" Cooper said.

TEP Faculty Consultant Laurie Jones Neighbors also deals extensively with the issues surrounding academic dishonesty. She said students are motivated to cheat during extreme conditions, such as when their computer crashes the night before a paper is due and the student has to make a choice between not turning in the assignment and turning in something they didn't write.

"It's not like students are 'Ha ha ha, I'm cheating,'" Neighbors said. "Students I find who do intentional cheating are in desperate circumstances."

But perhaps the biggest factor pushing students to cheat is the pressure cooker known as college life.

"Between trying to fit in all the credits, and trying to make sure you get a good internship or job, and dealing with your parents — there's a million stresses," sophomore Allie Major said.

According to the University Counseling and Testing Center's 2002-03 report, stress is a big part of students' lives. In fact, 42.4 percent of the students who turned to the counseling center for

aid did so in part because they "don't handle anxiety well."

Counseling Center Senior Staff Psychologist Ron Miyaguchi said the temptation to cheat doesn't really come up in his sessions with students, but many students he sees have scrambled priorities, which could result in them choosing to cheat.

"Students are typically in the mindset of short-term goals — for example, my goal is to get an 'A' in this class," he said.

Academic Learning Services Instructor Amy Nuetzman also said students focus too much on the short term and fail to recognize how demanding college classes are. They're fine for the first few weeks of the term, but when homework deadlines, paper deadlines and test deadlines start piling up, many students think the only way to dig themselves out is by cutting corners, Nuetzman said.

"A lot of students have told me that they are short on time actually writing the paper and they feel like they just have to whip it out," Nuetzman said.

But the final part of the equation explaining why students cheat is the fact that many students don't realize they're cheating.

"A lot of students don't understand the standards the University holds them to," said Hilary Berkman, director of the Office of Student Advocacy.

She added that some instances of cheating are clearly intentional, such

CHEATING STATISTICS

- On most campuses, more than 75 percent of students admit to cheating.
- In a 1999 survey of 2,100 students on 21 campuses across the country, about one-third of the participating students admitted to serious test cheating and half admitted to one or more instances of serious cheating on written assignments.
- Internet plagiarism is a growing concern on college campuses as students struggle to understand what constitutes acceptable use of the Internet. In the absence of clear direction from faculty, many students have concluded that "cut and paste" plagiarism — using a sentence or two from different sources on the Internet and weaving this information together into a paper without appropriate citation — is not a serious issue. While 10 percent of students admitted to engaging in such behavior in 1999, this rose to 41 percent in a 2001 survey with the majority of students — 68 percent — saying this was not a serious issue.
- Faculty are reluctant to take action against suspected cheaters. In a 1999 survey of more than 1,000 faculty members on 21 campuses, one-third of those who were aware of students cheating in their courses in the last two years did nothing to address it. Students suggest that cheating is higher in courses in which it is well-known that faculty members are likely to ignore cheating.

SOURCE: The Center for Academic Integrity's Web site at http://www.academicintegrity.org/cal_research.asp

as purchasing a paper off the Internet, but other academic transgressions, such as failing to cite a paper properly, are often unintended.

"Academic dishonesty isn't black and white," she said. "The cases we see can


be very complicated in that maybe the student hasn't done everything correctly, but that isn't necessarily an act of dishonesty."

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WORLD AIDS DAY

December 1st

Strengthening the exchange of HIV related information and forging a spirit of social tolerance.

This year's theme: "Stigma and Discrimination"

Consider how stigma and discrimination against HIV affects the following:

- getting tested for HIV
- gaining employment
- maintaining relationships
- admitting HIV positive status publicly
- obtaining health insurance
- entering a foreign country
- seeking treatment
- starting relationships

No policy or law alone can combat HIV/AIDS related discrimination. We must confront biased social attitudes to reduce the discrimination and stigma of people who are living with HIV.

What you can do:

- Learn more about HIV/AIDS at the Health Ed. Office in the Health Center.
- Learn more about World AIDS Day on <http://avert.org/worldaids.htm>.
- Get HIV tested at the Health Center (346-2770 for an appointment).
- Pick up a red ribbon at the Health Center. Wear it and talk about World AIDS Day with others.
- Pick up free condoms & dental dams at the Health Center
- Become a peer educator! Call 346-4456 for more information



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Health Center

<http://healthcenter.uoregon.edu>