



Barack Obama Academy of International Studies Academic Honesty Policy



Obama Academy Mission Statement

The Barack Obama Academy of International Studies is an International Baccalaureate World School that prepares students to become well-rounded, globally competitive, compassionate, and confident, in a safe and supportive environment.

The IB Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

To this end the organization works with schools, governments and international organizations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment.

These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

Academic Honesty Philosophy

A clear academic honesty policy is a central component of the Obama Academy's effort to prepare students "to become well-rounded, globally competitive, compassionate and confident, in a safe and supportive environment," as outlined in our Mission Statement.

The Obama Academy's Academic Honesty Policy helps students to develop several of the characteristics associated with the IB Learner Profile. **Principled** individuals give credit where it is due and do not take the work of others without proper attribution. Effective **Communicators** will include the sources of ideas and information expressed, so that audiences can place the work in its proper context. Those who consider themselves **Inquirers** and **Thinkers** must have a clear record of the development of their information so that they are able to **Reflect** about their work during and after its completion. No one can truly claim to be **Knowledgeable** if they are unable to explain the derivation of their opinions.

Definition of Academic Honesty Terms

To ensure that IB students worldwide are all working towards the same standard of academic honesty, the IBO has defined several terms to be used by all IB Schools.

Malpractice- “behavior that results in, or may result in, the student or any other student gaining an unfair advantage in one or more assessment components” (Academic Honesty 11)

Plagiarism- “the representation of the ideas or work of another person as the student’s own” (General Regulations: Middle Years Programme 8)

Collusion- “supporting malpractice by another student, as in allowing one’s work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another” ” (General Regulations: Middle Years Programme 8)

Duplication of Work- “the presentation of the same work for different assessment components and/or diploma requirements” (Academic Honesty 11)

Authentic Work- is work that is based on the student’s “individual and original ideas with the ideas and work of others fully acknowledged” (Academic honesty 10)

Collaboration- “working together on a common aim with shared information, which is an open and cooperative behavior” that does not result in collusion (Academic Honesty 10)

Rationale for Academic Honesty Policy

Far too often, a school’s academic honesty policy is presented as a list of consequences to punish people who cheat on tests and quizzes, or try to submit work written by other people as their own when turning in a paper. The true concept of academic honesty is much broader. It covers every aspect of an IB Learner’s academic behavior, both in, and outside of class. By committing to the idea to never do anything that may give them an unfair advantage over others, IB Learners encourage cooperation and an environment that is welcoming to a free exchange of ideas. By acknowledging sources of ideas and information, IB Learners demonstrate that they are willing to have their thought process critiqued by others, able to reflect on how they arrived at their own conclusions, and respect the work done by others. By applying the same standard of malpractice to all assignments, regardless of their weight towards a final grade, IB Learners maintain a consistent set of principles throughout their academic careers.

Teacher Responsibilities

- Review the Academic Honesty Terms above with students and explain how they relate to each specific subject’s content and conventions
- Provide students with the subject specific format for citations
- Inform students about proper behavior during the completion of work and exams
- Guide students to enable them to tell the difference between Collaboration and Collusion
- Be familiar with “Academic Honesty; guidance for Schools”
- Explain how students can maintain academic honesty and why it is important
- Document each episode of malpractice on a referral note

Student Responsibilities

- Learn the Academic Honesty Terms above.
- Always submit authentic work. All submitted work should be your own original creation. Any words, ideas, pictures or information that are not your own creation must be acknowledged with the proper citation. Anything found online, even if it is free for public use, must be acknowledged if it is included in your work. Work completed with tutors, parents or study groups must also include these sources to be considered authentic.

- When collaborating, include the names of all collaborators on the assignment. This includes homework and classwork.
- Check all work to make sure that sources have been acknowledged.
- Complete an Academic honesty Reflection Form if caught in an instance of malpractice.

Consequences of Academic Malpractice on all Assignments (homework, classwork, quizzes, tests, projects)

Although the first goal of our Academic Honesty Policy is not punishment, there must be consequences for students who fail to maintain their academic honesty.

First Offence:

Student completes a reflection form and is given partial credit for making up or redoing the work, if possible. Copy of reflection form is filed with administration along with referral. Parent informed of the infraction.

Second Offence:

Student completes a reflection form to be filed with administration along with a referral. No credit is given for the work. Parent informed of the infraction.

Subsequent Offences:

Student completes a reflection form filed with administration along with a referral and no credit is given for the work. Parent informed of the infraction.

Referrals for academic malpractice will remain on file over the course of the student's entire career at the Obama Academy. At the start of each academic year, the consequences will be reset, so that if a student commits another infraction in a new academic year, it is treated as a "First Offence" in terms of repercussions, even if there are already incidents of academic malpractice on file from previous years.

Works Referenced

"Academic Honesty." Cardiff, Wales: International Baccalaureate Organization, 2009.

"General Regulations: Middle Years Programme" Cardiff, Wales: International Baccalaureate Organization, 2011.