# Promoting Academic Integrity through Course Design & Assessment

Dr. Jacques M. Zalma
University of Southern California
Director, Office of Academic Integrity



# Introduction & Overview

#### Cheating is Creative

Academic dishonesty is a pervasive problem that looks different than you might remember

#### Academic Integrity can be Creative too

This requires us to reconsider how to effectively re-engineer teaching and assess learning

#### Why do Students Cheat?

Who are our students and what are primary stressors?

#### **Promoting Academic Integrity**

Implementation techniques





Academic Programs

Office of Academic Integrity





#### Confusion

Cheating isn't always clear.



#### Comfort with Technology

Many college students are older than Facebook. Technology has always been accessible.



#### **Changes to Education**

COVID-19 pandemic shifted education and caused a lot of ongoing stress



# WHY DO STUDENTS CHEAT?



#### Stress/Anxiety

Feeling depleted; there is no other option



#### Procrastination

Not effectively managing time and other responsibilities



#### Risk Assessment

Not likely to get caught in a large class





# Establishing a Culture of Integrity

# What is Prohibited?

Be explicit and provide examples of previous violations you identified

# Why is it Important?

What are the longterm impacts? How does integrity impact future career goals?

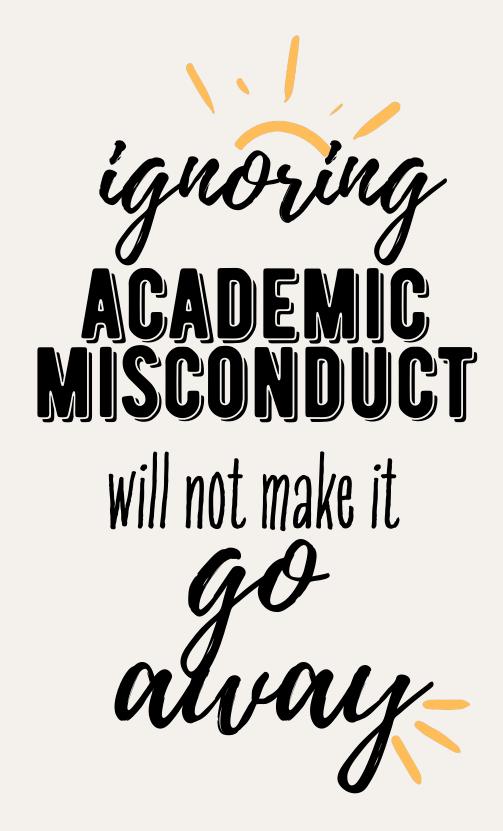
#### **Core Values**

Dishonest behavior
devalues the student's
education and
diminishes the value of
the institution

#### Resources

Identify options
available for students
seeking help





#### USC Academic Programs Office of Academic Integrity

#### Be Specific

Expectations, Preventions, Consequences, Resources

#### Be Repetitive

Don't limit expectations to the first day of class and the course syllabus

#### Be an Academic Integrity Ambassador

Celebrate learning and remove the motivation to cheat

#### Be Supportive

Stress and anxiety are not excuses for poor behavior, but they might lead to regrettable choices



#### Scaffold Assignments

Provide training
Showcase opportunities for learning
Help avoid procrastination





#### Multiple Deliverables

Engage early and often in the learning process



#### Encourage in-class Presentations

Presentations with Q&A encourages learning and transferable experience beyond the classroom



## Promoting

### Academic HONESTY



#### Exams

Multiple Versions

Make exams accessible only during specific windows



#### Single Use

Screen captures are much more prevalent. Assume your exam has been compromised.



#### It's Not JUST the Grades

Share applications of "real world" experience.

Increase value and engagement and decrease the "Google the Right answer" phenomenon



You are not a grade.

There's a lot more to you than your grades.

The value of your life is not measured by your grades.

