Thank you for viewing this material. We hope you find it helpful. My name is Christy Anthony, and I serve as GW’s director of student rights and responsibilities. During this virtual learning period, we’ve received numerous questions from faculty and students about how to manage academic integrity. While our process hasn’t changed, we understand the increased interest in addressing academic integrity, as so we offer this guidance for you, and have separately provided some ideas for faculty.

You can also reach out to us at any time with questions or concerns. Our email address is rights@gwu.edu and our phone number is 202-994-6757. Our website also has many useful resources.

At the end, we provide a link for you to give feedback.
Ask questions about what resources you are and are not permitted to use. Class books? All books? Blackboard materials? Your own class notes? The internet? Your classmates? Your friends and family? During the virtual learning period, faculty may allow you to use more resources than they would in a classroom exam, but you should not assume that is permitted. Faculty make deliberate choices about why you are allowed to use certain resources, if any. Ask any questions you may have so that you are following the expectations. Remember that you and faculty are coming from and adjusting to in diverse backgrounds and settings. Rather than assuming you and your teacher have a common understanding, take the steps to create it.
Faculty strive to create an inclusive learning environment, including final exams and other assessments. We know students place a high value on equality and equity too. So, for example, your faculty might allow everyone to use class notes, and prohibit you from consulting any family members. These sorts of boundaries create a more equitable academic assessment for everyone. We rely on students as partners in this pursuit of equity.
Many of the academic integrity cases we see occur when students are rushed and take shortcuts in note-taking or are confused about the expectations and don’t have time to see clarification. Planning your assignments ahead and checking the directions so you can ask questions are important steps to avoid a charge of cheating or plagiarism.
Learn the best pathways to seek and receive clarification about expectations. Sometimes, students begin a project believing they understand the boundaries of integrity. As they progress, they find new questions arise. Before you begin an exam or a project, ask your teacher how you can get clarification from them during the project or exam.
Remember that the Code of Academic Integrity remains in effect and is an important tool for ensuring the value of everyone’s work. Be sure you understand the definitions of cheating and plagiarism which I’ll describe briefly. Students and faculty all come to GW from different academic, cultural, and professional backgrounds, so checking your understanding is important.

Definitions regarding Academic Integrity

**Cheating** - intentionally or knowingly using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise; engaging in unauthorized collaboration in any academic exercise; copying from another student’s examination; submitting work for an in-class examination that has been prepared in advance; representing material prepared by another as one’s own work; submitting the same or substantially the same work in more than one course without prior permission of both instructors; violating rules governing administration of examinations; violating any rules relating to academic conduct of a course or program.

**Fabrication** - intentionally or knowingly, or unauthorized falsification or invention of any data, information, or citation in an academic exercise; giving false or misleading information regarding an academic matter.

**Plagiarism** - intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, or sequence of ideas of another as one’s own in any academic exercise; or failure to attribute any of
the following: quotations, paraphrases, or borrowed information.

**Falsification and forgery of University academic documents** - intentionally or knowingly making a false statement, concealing material information, or forging a University official's signature on any University academic document or record; making false statements to or concealing material information from a university employee that results in the creation of a false academic record or document. Such academic documents or records may include transcripts, registration/add-drop forms, requests for advanced standing, requests to register for undergraduate or graduate-level courses, etc. (Falsification or forgery of non-academic University documents, such as financial aid forms, shall be considered a violation of the non-academic student disciplinary code.)

**Facilitating academic dishonesty** - intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.
We know many students are working in different environments than a few short weeks ago. Maybe you’re also caring for family members, maybe you or others in your household are ill, and maybe your mental health has been challenging to manage. Lots of students are experiencing this. Faculty may or may not be able to modify the learning environment or assessment, but in all cases we encourage you to share these challenges and seek support resources. If you’re not sure where to go, you can email rights@gwu.edu and let us know what’s going on.
I hope this content has been helpful as you move into the final assessment period. We welcome your feedback and questions at any time. Take care and be well.