Commitment to Academic Integrity:

We, the students of Norwalk Community College, commit ourselves to academic integrity. We promise to pursue the highest ideals of academic life, to challenge ourselves with the most rigorous standards, to be honest in any academic endeavor, to conduct ourselves responsibly and honorably, to encourage one another as we strive to meet our goals. In meeting those goals we understand that we must avoid, in every instance, the following forms of academic dishonesty.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty (cheating)

All forms of cheating imply that the effort involved in studying the material is of no value, and that only the grade matters. This harms the student by depriving him or her of the skills and knowledge necessary for a positive contribution to society, personal success in academic endeavors, employment opportunities and living a life of integrity. Below are examples of cheating and the reasons why it is not acceptable and cannot be tolerated:

1. TO CHEAT ON EXAMINATIONS AND/OR QUIZZES:
   - Deceives the professor who is led to believe the grade on your test or quiz represents your knowledge on the subject being tested
   - Deceives the college which records your grade and grants your degree or certificate
   - Deceives your future employer, because they will expect a level of understanding or skill that you falsely claim to possess
   - Deceives yourself because you will not have an accurate understanding of your skills and abilities nor ever really improve

2. PROVIDING ANOTHER STUDENT WITH ANY WORK, CLASSROOM PERFORMANCE, EXAMINATION, OR OTHER ACTIVITY SUBMITTED OR PERFORMED BY A PERSON OTHER THAN THE STUDENT UNDER WHOSE NAME THE WORK IS SUBMITTED OR PERFORMED:
   - These actions deceive the professor and show disrespect his or her academic standards, and reduces the value of grades received by other students who play by the rules
   - The student who is assisted has the mistaken belief in “Success at any cost”, which deprives him or her of the skills and knowledge necessary for a positive contribution to one’s society, success in future academic endeavors and employment opportunities

3. TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHERS IN WORK TO BE PRESENTED WHEN NOT ALLOWED BY THE PROFESSOR:
   - To work together when not allowed is to falsely claim that one’s work is entirely one’s own
   - It does not matter if one or more people perform the work and others do not, if they rely upon the work that has been performed, all have deceived the professor.
   - All collaborators in this situation gain an unfair advantage over others by falsely representing that their efforts are the result of each individual working independently.
   - This disrespects the college’s academic standards, and depreciates the value of grades received by other students who play by the rules

4. PLAGIARIZING, INCLUDING THE SUBMISSION OF OTHERS’ IDEAS OR PAPERS (WHETHER PURCHASED, BORROWED, OR OTHERWISE OBTAINED, FROM ANY SOURCE, INCLUDING THE INTERNET) AS ONE’S OWN WORK.
   - Plagiarizing, when purchased, borrowed or otherwise obtained with permission, is at best a false representation (a lie) about one’s knowledge and skills
   - Plagiarizing, when obtained without permission (is theft) of someone else’s hard work; their intellectual property
   - Plagiarizing combines the wrongs of both cheating and collaborating without permission, in that it falsely represents the work as one’s own
5. **Stealing or unauthorized access to examinations or course material.**

- Theft of examinations and/or course materials is a violation of the personal integrity of the professor and his or her course.
- It provides an unfair advantage to the thief, thus lessening the value of grades received by other students.

6. **Falsifying records, laboratory or other data.**

- To falsify one’s own academic records, is the same as cheating described in #1 above and is considered a serious offense involving tampering with official records of the State of Connecticut, and is thus a crime.
- To falsify records, laboratory data or other data in one’s class is the same as cheating as described in #1 above and could result in expulsion from the college.

7. **Submitting work previously presented in another course contrary to the professor’s rules:***

- To submit work previously submitted in another course shows disrespect to the professor’s rules.
- To offer work that is not fully appropriate for the material covered falsely represents the effort one is making within the current course.

8. **Copying, pasting and using any material from the Internet, without proper documentation, as one’s own work:**

- The proper citing of the sources of direct quotes and paraphrases, is allowed and encouraged in an academic setting.
- The copying, pasting and use of material from the Internet **without proper citation** and documentation is dishonest.
- Copying and pasting without providing the student’s own observation, analysis, and perspective deprives the instructor an opportunity to evaluate how well the student has integrated and mastered the concepts being taught in the course.