How to Avoid a Violation:  
A Tale from a Remorseful UMD Grad Student

- As a graduate student, you are expected to know the rules of academic integrity. If you’re unsure, seek help from faculty, your TA, or the Writing Center – don’t assume or improvise. If you’re not sure, ask! Read the Code of Academic Integrity (https://www.president.umd.edu/sites/president.umd.edu/files/files/documents/policies/III-100A.pdf).

- Not having proper in-line citations and/or not using quotation marks for all text that you use from other sources is plagiarism. You are conveying an impression to the reader that these are your thoughts and words. If you’re paraphrasing, you still must cite your sources within the text.

- You have a responsibility to inform the Office of Student Conduct when you come across plagiarism in group work settings, or you can self-report.

- Take the free Academic Integrity Seminar on ELMS (especially if you’re coming from other cultures). You are not absolved because things worked differently in your home culture.

- Don’t use any work submitted by your seniors, friends, or peers. If you do have to, clearly mention the help you received on the assignment.

- If you missed the sessions offered by ISSS or the Writing Center for some reason, follow up on other opportunities to gather information.

- Penalties for plagiarism are severe, and for graduate students, the normal penalty is expulsion/suspension and an XF in the course.

- Be mindful of self-plagiarism as well and use a plagiarism checker before you submit assignments.

Written and submitted by a graduate student at the University of Maryland, College Park

Presented at Tales from Grad Students: "What I Wish I Knew," A Gradulting Workshop
What to do if You are Charged

- If you realize you violated the code, self-report any additional violations immediately to the Office of Student Conduct.
- Make an appointment with a Student Advocate in the Graduate Student Legal Aid Office.
- Be honest throughout the process. Don’t change your story. Keep all records which might help you in an Honor Review. It’s not the same as a court of law and the standard of evidence is different.
- Show remorse and be apologetic.
- Inform your advisors, program directors, or faculty – they may be able to help mitigate some consequences.
- Remain calm and try not to get bitter at your professor or others who may have reported you. You were and are responsible for your actions – it’s not their fault.
- Seek counseling support at the counseling center or through the campus chaplains, if required.
- Use the services at GLAO, but don’t assume it’s their job to get you off the hook.

Student Quote: "I learned these lessons in the hardest way possible and it took quite a toll on my personal life and left my academic reputation in tatters. Trust me, you do not want to learn about academic integrity that way!"