

## Analyzing the approaches of creating, maintaining and improving the academic integrity of students

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### Article Info

### ABSTRACT

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Due to the increasing growth of academic misconduct in different levels of education around the world, the present study aims to investigate the concept of academic integrity and to identify approaches to creating, maintaining and improving academic integrity in Payame Noor University (PNU) students. In this study, qualitative research method and qualitative content analysis approach were used to analyze the data. The components used were identified based on a review of documents and semi-structured interview tools. In order to review the documents and analyze the interview findings, the inductive content analysis method was used at three levels: open, axial, and selective. To comprehensively identify the main components and subcomponents of approaches to creating, maintaining, and improving students' academic integrity, in addition to reviewing studies conducted in this field, a semi-structured interview was conducted with 20 professors and instructors at Payame Noor University (PNU) who were knowledgeable in the field of academic integrity. The results of the research showed that approaches to creating, maintaining, and improving students' academic integrity include three main components and six subcomponents, which are: 1- educational approaches a) teaching and learning process 2- educational interventions and behavior shaping. 2- Supportive approach a) Culture building b) Providing guidance and counseling services. 3- Punitive approaches a) Setting and approving laws and regulations b) Punishment and educational sanctions. Conclusion: Although many students consider academic dishonesty to be unfair, immoral, and against their religious values, this intentional unethical behavior is on the rise in the academic environment. Therefore, a proper understanding of academic dishonesty and the causes and conditions that underlie this phenomenon will help to adopt policies, initiatives, and collaborations to promote and apply values related to academic dishonesty, and to maintain and improve it.

**Keywords:** academic integrity, educational approaches, supportive approaches and punitive approaches.

## Introduction

The development of education in the modern era and the common use of technologies have led to the use of innovative learning approaches and the possibility of increasing complete and easy access to educational materials, using social media to store and share educational materials and materials. And it provides the possibility of integrating different methods to make learning more active, however, it creates serious challenges in maintaining the academic integrity of learners. Academic integrity is an inclusive term for the commitment to uphold the six basic values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage in academic activities in order to prevent a wide range of dishonest activities. Researchers believe that learners who have academic integrity show consistent behavior and their actions and activities lead to good values, happiness, peace and well-being and increase optimism about their success in the future. In addition, the application of these basic values (honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage) further improves the capacity of learners and their moral behavior. On the other hand, weak academic integrity affects not only learners and employees, but also the reputation and credibility of educational institutions, and the risk of graduating incompetent professionals with weak professional ethics and even unethical behaviors in the workplace, ultimately leading to corruption in those countries. Violation of academic integrity is considered as academic dishonesty and is defined as "deliberate unethical behavior in an educational environment". Research shows an increasing number of violations of academic integrity at all levels of education and all over the world. Researchers look at various individual and social factors such as individual characteristics, peer influences, teacher influences, institutional policies, the development of new technology, the values and culture of learners and educational institutions, structure, line and policy, and organizational policies in relation to abuse. They refer to academic behavior. Considering the role and importance of academic integrity in the growth and improvement of the personal, academic, professional and social life of learners (Minocha, 2021), the widespread use of information and communication technology in the field of education, as well as insufficient understanding and recognition of this concept, especially in The platforms of online education and the methods of creating, maintaining and improving it and the lack of research conducted in the country in this field (according to the researcher's review), caused the present research to investigate the concept of academic integration and the approaches to creating, maintaining and improving it among Students of Payame Noor University should pay.

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## Methodology

The present research was conducted in order to identify the dimensions and components of approaches to create, maintain and improve the academic integrity of Payame Noor University students. This research has been conducted in terms of practical purpose and execution method, qualitatively using the content analysis technique. Content analysis is a research method to obtain valid and repeatable results from the data extracted from the text. The components used were based on the documentation and semi-structured interview tools. Inductive content analysis was used in three levels of open, axial and selective in order to review the documents. For a comprehensive identification of the main components and sub-components of the implementation requirements, in addition to reviewing studies conducted in this field, semi-structured interview with 20 professors and lecturers of PNU are knowledgeable in the field of academic integrity were conducted.

## Findings

The results of the research showed that the approaches to create, maintain and improve the academic integrity of students include three main components: and 6 sub-components., which are: 1- educational approaches a) teaching and learning process 2- educational interventions and behavior shaping. 2- Supportive approach a) Culture building b) Providing guidance and counseling services. 3- Punitive approaches a) Setting and approving laws and regulations b) Punishment and educational sanctions.

## Conclusion

Researchers believe that in order to deal with and reduce its harmful effects, it is very necessary to identify and understand the causes, the underlying conditions of academic cheating. It is obvious that these results will help those involved in education and research to reduce, deal with and prevent these harms of violating academic integrity. According to the results of the research, clarifying expectations from students, turning academic integrity into an institutional value with consistent standards and creating a culture of academic integrity in educational institutions and learners, fair and supportive treatment of offenders to prevent the formation of feelings of helplessness or stress and shame, the feeling of losing the future, as well as holding educational workshops and seminars, which are very helpful in this field.

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