

Multiple Forgery of Signatures

I am currently a fourth year Mechanical Engineering student at the University of Windsor. The University of Windsor prides itself in its code of academic integrity and takes any academic misconduct seriously. I am going to tell you a story about the **significance of academic integrity**.

I did not take academic integrity seriously when **I forged five signatures on a course add/drop form** to gain access to courses that were required for me to graduate. My actions stemmed from a desperate attempt to avoid delaying my graduation. I had spoken to my Professor about gaining entrance into the course; however, my Professor informed me that I would have to proceed to the Registrar's Office to do so. I understood from the Registrar that I would be put on a waiting list. I felt that I would not be able to gain entrance as there were many students on the wait list. I made the decision to by-pass the wait list procedure and forge five signatures on the course add/drop form to ensure I could gain entrance to the course.

At the time I **felt that I would not get caught** because I understood many students were forging signatures to gain access to courses and were getting away with it. However, **that was a big mistake**. As a result, I received an e-mail from the Academic Integrity Office advising me that they were going to take action against me and that I potentially was **facing a suspension** of almost an entire calendar year. I understand that it is now the University's policy to retain course add forms in order to prevent students from attempting to forge these documents and to have proof of forgery in order to penalize students accordingly.

The **end result of my poor judgment landed me a nine and half month suspension and my convocation being delayed for almost a year from the original date**. I realize that I pursued the wrong course of action. I should have followed the proper policies in Engineering for adding courses to my schedule, rather than trying to enter a course by fraudulent means. The consequences are far worse than if I followed the rules. I will never take another risk of that nature and will make sure that I inform myself about the rules. I am an honest person, and I am ashamed of committing a dishonest act. **I realize the value of academic integrity and I truly regret committing an academic misconduct offence.**

My advice to all students is simple, familiarize your self with the academic integrity rules and if for some reason you have doubts about what is right or wrong ask the Academic Integrity Office. **Always take the right path because by committing an academic misconduct offence, you can put yourself into a situation that can compromise your integrity, your reputation, your education, and your future.**

- Fourth-year Mechanical Engineering Student
Fall 2008