Rasmussen College Academic Integrity Policy

I. **Introduction**: As an institution of higher learning, Rasmussen College is dedicated to global enrichment and meeting the evolving needs of our diverse communities. In pursuit of this commitment, students of Rasmussen College are expected to uphold the very highest business and personal ethics and embrace opportunities for engaging in honest intellectual inquiry by practicing academic integrity. Academic Integrity is the commitment to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. The purpose of this policy is to clarify the College’s expectations with regard to student’s academic behavior and provide examples of academic misconduct. Misconduct is a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, whether intentional or unintentional, and includes all forms of academic cheating.

II. **Definitions**

a. **Academic Misconduct** is the violation of the Academic Integrity Policy, including all forms of academic cheating including but not limited to acts listed below and any other act that results in unfair advantage to the student.

b. **Cheating**: Distributing or receiving answers or information by any means other than those expressly permitted by an instructor for any academic exercise. Examples include:
   i. Copying answers, data, or information for any academic exercise from another student in which the student is not expressly permitted to work jointly with others.
   ii. Impersonation: Assuming another student’s identity or allowing another person to complete an academic exercise on one’s own behalf.
   iii. Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, texts, devices, notes, information or study aids to gain unfair advantage in any academic exercise (i.e., assignments, discussions, tests, quizzes, papers, labs).

c. **Collusion**: Knowingly assisting, attempting to assist, or receiving assistance from another student or students to commit academic misconduct, or conspiring with any other person in or outside of the College to commit misconduct.

d. **Destruction, Theft, Obstruction, Interference**: Seeking to gain unfair academic advantage by destroying, damaging, or stealing equipment or products of any academic exercise; or obstructing or interfering with an instructor’s materials or another student’s academic work.

e. **Fabrication, Falsification, Forgery**: Deliberately falsifying, altering, or inventing student records, information or citations. Forgery is the act of imitating or counterfeiting documents, signatures, and the like.
f. **Plagiarism** is the act of representing an individual's or organization's words, thoughts, or ideas as one's own. Examples include:

i. Using information (a paraphrase or quotation, in whole or in part) from a source without attempting to give credit to the author of that source.

ii. Using charts, illustrations, images, figures, equations, etc., without citing the source.

iii. Using an academic exercise (in whole or in part) purchased or copied from a ghostwriter or paper/essay mill.

iv. Copyright infringement or piracy, including the use, alteration, or duplication of media, software, code, or information when expressly prohibited or where copyright exists or is implied.

III. **Violations:** Students who violate the academic integrity policy (commit academic misconduct) are subject to corrective action in order to deter future misconduct and to hold students accountable for their actions. Academic Integrity violations and corrective actions are documented and cumulative; corrective actions may be increased based on a past disciplinary record, the severity of the violation, and the impact upon the academic community. The College reserves the right to dismiss a student from the College for academic misconduct; students who are dismissed from the College because of academic misconduct may not reenroll. Students who commit Academic Misconduct also run the risk of harming future educational and employment opportunities.

**Appeal:** A student found in violation of the Academic Integrity Policy may appeal a finding of misconduct using the Academic Appeal policy located in the catalog.