STUDENT PERCEPTIONS OF CHEATING: A COMPARISON OF BUSINESS AND NON-BUSINESS STUDENTS

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Faculty at institutions of higher learning often employ various methods to catch academically dishonest students. In spite of these efforts, cheating, in its various forms, continues to be an issue. Multiple studies conducted over the last several decades indicate an increase in self-reported academic dishonesty. This increase poses a serious challenge. Once an institution's academic integrity is tarnished, stakeholders may question its viability.

Some previous studies indicate that business students are the greatest offenders of academic integrity. This finding is particularly worrisome. Upper-level managers frequently are business majors and become corporate leaders of profit and nonprofit entities. If some of these leaders engaged in academic dishonesty as a way to get ahead, these same leaders may allow such a mindset to create a corporate culture that either accepts unethical behavior or "turns its head" when employees engage in unscrupulous acts.

In an attempt to ascertain if business students cheat more than other students, this study compares several factors among four academic majors: Business, Computer Science, Criminal Justice, and Education.