



Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is at the center of Business Professionals of America's educational mission. It is imperative that all work submitted by our membership be a true reflection of that individual's and/or team's effort and ability. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Workplace Skills Assessment Program (WSAP) competitive event project submissions and all online assessments.
- Application submissions for the BPA Cares, Torch Awards, or scholarship programs.

Any member (including, but not limited to, advisors, students, alumni, and volunteers) who has demonstrated unacceptable academic behavior by violating the National BPA Academic Integrity Policy is subject to disciplinary action.

Intentional or unintentional violations of the Academic Integrity Policy include, but are not limited to:

- Not citing a source in text and/or in a Works Cited when:
 - Using another individual's work, idea or opinion
 - Using information from any source or reference material
 - Using any charts, infographics, pictures, sounds or any other media elements
 - Using quotations from an individual's actual spoken or written words
 - Paraphrasing (putting into your own words) an individual's work
- Allowing advisors, alumni, parents, friends or any other individual to create content for the competitor(s)
- Attempting to cheat on any objective online or offline assessment exam (example: using online resources and/or old BPA tests during the event)
- Removing and/or sharing any event-specific information from the event (such as the test, application tasks, objective test questions, speech prompts, etc.)
- Fabricating signatures on entry forms and/or release forms
- Fabricating sources (such as creating fictitious articles or authors)
- Re-using your own projects from previous years (self-plagiarism)

National BPA Academic Integrity Violation Procedures

The following guidelines will be adhered to if a member has demonstrated a violation of the National BPA Academic Integrity Policy:

1. Any individual who discovers sufficient information to substantiate an academic integrity violation should immediately (within one hour) complete an Academic Integrity Violation Form and submit to the BPA Director of Education at the Competitive Events Headquarters if during NLC, or via email if occurring prior to

- NLC (pre-judged materials, BPA Cares applications, Torch Award resumes, scholarship applications, etc.).
2. Upon receipt and review of the Academic Integrity Violation Form, the Director of Education will notify the Grievance Committee of the alleged violation (including a detailed synopsis and proof to substantiate the violation via the Academic Integrity Violation Form).
 3. The Grievance Committee will review the Academic Integrity Violation Form and, if the violation is substantiated, determine an appropriate course of disciplinary sanction(s) based on proof and the severity of the violation, which may include:
 - a. a reduced score on any scorable item/entry
 - b. a grade of “zero” on any scorable item/entry
 - c. immediate disqualification from the related competitive event, BPA Cares program, Torch Awards program, scholarship and/or any other related event in the BPA Platform, and/or
 - d. membership suspension.
 4. The respective member, local advisor, and state advisor or designee will be notified of the Academic Integrity Violation and given the opportunity to respond/appeal the decision if disciplinary action is taken.

The BPA Illinois Association will follow these violation procedures for Fall, Area/Regional, and State Leadership Conferences. The BPA IL Association reserves the right to enforce additional penalties as deemed appropriate.