The Cost of Cheating

Is cheating worth the risk?

Office of Integrity and Ethical Development
Funding Provided by Student Government Association
Division of Student Development and Enrollment Services
James’ Story

- In October of his sophomore year at UCF, he began to feel the pressure of needing to be the best and to get an “A” in Organic Chemistry.
- He had a full (12 hour) course load and was having difficulty balancing all of his responsibilities.
- James received a Florida Medallion Scholarship (FMS) from Bright Futures along with two other scholarships that totaled $2,000.
- He lived on campus with a meal plan, because who has time to cook?
- To help cover book expenses and have some “fun” money, he picked up a part time job at the UCF bookstore.
- By the time midterms rolled around James was feeling overwhelmed and did not feel prepared for his Organic Chemistry Midterm Exam.
James’ Story

- On the day of the midterm he decided at the last minute to bring along a cheat sheet containing a few crucial notes which would ensure him an “A”.

- The test proctor caught James with the cheat sheet and was reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

- He was placed on **Disciplinary Suspension** for the Fall semester.
Disciplinary Suspension means a student is not allowed to be enrolled in classes and cannot participate in UCF programs or receive UCF services.

Now let us examine the cost of James’ choice.
Monetarily: Room & Board

- Losing his Lake Claire housing:
  - Breaking of Lease ✓ $3,045
  - Cancelation Fee ✓ $1,000

- Losing his “All Access 7” meal plan ✓ $3,900
Monetarily: Bright Futures Award

- Withdrawn from all Fall semester classes.

- Bright Futures Guideline:
  - Students are **required to repay** the cost of any course dropped or withdrawn from and repayment is required to renew Bright Futures Award for the following semester.
Monetarily: Tuition

- Florida Medallion Scholars (Bright Futures):
  - $77 per credit hour
  - 12 credit hours x $77
  - Remainder tuition balance paid
  - $924 owed in repayment
  - $1,226.28 out of pocket loss

- If Bright Futures does not receive repayment, James will need to pay the full tuition rate to retake classes from the suspended semester:
  - Resident UCF Tuition rate: $179.19 per credit hour
  - 12 credit hours x $179.19
  - $2,150.28 out of pocket expense
Monetarily: Job Loss

- Loss of UCF Bookstore Job
  - $9 per hour x 20 hours a week x 8 weeks
  - $1,440 loss of income
Grand Total of Losses and Repayments

✓ $13,685.56

Was it worth it?
In addition to...

- Z designation on transcript denoting academic misconduct.

Transcript

- Organic Chemistry I: zW
- General Physics Using Calculus: W
- Calculus w/Analytic Geometry: W
- Statistics: W
Can’t put a price tag on…

- Not being able to participate in UCF functions, including sporting events.
- Having a “Z”W on his transcript
- When applying for graduate school:
  - He may need to explain the break in his transcript
  - Have to check the box “yes” for a violation of Academic Misconduct.
- Having to explain the situation to Mom and Dad.
Moral of the story...

It’s OK to take the Zero!

Is better than explaining a “Z”W on your transcript and telling your parents.