

Exercising Compassionate Accountability in Academic Integrity

When holding faculty interviews or discussions with students regarding potential academic integrity violations, it is important to balance situational gravity and empathy. In Academic Integrity, this balance is called compassionate accountability. Compassionate accountability demonstrates care while relaying the high standards of Syracuse University and providing an opportunity for growth. This document provides examples of how to engage in compassionate accountability during interviews.

| Original Thought | Compassionate Accountability Language |
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| "Why are you lying?" "This would be better if you stop lying." | "Your statement doesn't align with what the reporting instructor stated. Can you explain the discrepancy?" |
| "Wow. This is really bad." | "I understand that you're nervous/frustrated/upset, but it is important to recognize the gravity of this situation." |
| "This is unacceptable behavior. There are going to be severe consequences." | "In times of stress, we often make decisions we wouldn't make normally. However, sometimes unintentional behaviors still carry consequences." |
| "If you don't learn from this, you're going to do this again in the future." | "Everyone makes mistakes, it's what you do next that's important. You can learn from this and move forward." |
| "The violation here is really obvious." | With the rubric, "does it make sense how, even if this was unintentional, it aligns with this particular behavior on the rubric." |
| "The Academic Integrity Office is a place we all want to avoid as much as possible." | "We understand that navigating this process is difficult. However, working with the Academic Integrity Office and your instructors provides a learning opportunity in an environment with supportive resources." |
| "You should probably just withdraw from this course." | "You cannot withdraw from a course during an Academic Integrity investigation; grading is an important part of this process." |

If you want to talk more about compassionate accountability or practice, book a consultation with Academic Integrity by emailing aio@syr.edu or calling 315-443-5412.

Do you want to learn more about compassionate accountability? We recommend reading *Compassionate Accountability: How Leaders Build Connection and Get Results* by Nate Regier