

TULANE HULLABALOO

THE EYES AND EARS OF THE TULANE COMMUNITY

VOLUME CXIII NO. 22 MARCH 22, 2018

Making the Grade:

Students, professors acknowledge culture of cheating

By Jonathon Marks & Sophia Mariani
ASSOCIATE EDITOR & ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

The sweat begins to trickle. Panic sets in. The questions aren't making any sense. Was this even on the study guide?

Out of 260 respondents to a Hullabaloo poll, 90.2 percent admitted to cheating on a test at some point in their college careers.

Many students expressed feeling frustration and anxiety to achieve the best grades possible. Between the pressures to succeed and juggle an academic, social and work life, students say they are sometimes tempted to cheat.

"Everything is so competitive when it comes to internships, jobs, honor roll, Latin honors, extracurriculars that take your GPA into account," senior political economy major Jared Shurman said. "A lot of professors don't always understand that when you walk into a class the first day and they say, 'you're not going to get an A in this class,' how much that devastates people and really freaks people out because it is important."

Besides having to deal with what can sometimes be an overwhelming number of class assignments, students are often involved with extracurricular activities and must maintain responsibilities they have outside the classroom. One way some students say they are able to get through their busy days and still do well on class assignments and tests is by cheating in some form.

Of the faculty and students interviewed, most agreed that Tulane has a culture of cheating.

How Students Cheat

In addition to the students who take advantage of opportunities to turn in and receive credit for other students' work, some students also help others cheat. While these students' academic work may not be impacted by helping others cheat, the Tulane Code of Academic Conduct defines cheating as, "Giving, receiving, or using, or attempting to give, receive, or use unauthorized assistance, information, or study aids in academic work ..."

More than 60 percent of respondents reported having written essays for other people, and 76.3 percent have provided answers to tests. Nearly half of the respondents had received some form of payment to help students cheat.

"I've been paid to write essays for other people," Sloane*, a freshman in the School of Science and Engineering who prefers to remain anonymous said. "I know it's bragging, but they got A's with those essays, just saying. And they themselves are pretty [bad] writers, so it's a little amazing no one noticed."

According to some students who were asked about their experiences, there are different categories of cheating, with varying levels of moral ambiguity and consequences. For instance, one way students cheat is by using test material from previous semesters.

Josh Jessiman | Photography editor