

Hello. I am Anurag Sharma, and I am a full time MBA and MS in Business Analytics student. I am glad that you chose to bring your talents, unique perspectives, global mindsets, lived experiences to UMD to make our learning community even more vibrant. I hope your time here is enriching, engaging and full of learning. In order to ensure this, the University has created an Honor Code that is designed to uphold academic integrity and shared values. The Code of Academic Integrity is specifically designed to create student engagement and self-accountability when it comes to your coursework. Academic integrity is characterized by honest and responsible learning and scholarship.

As an International Student, I was accustomed to a community value system. Initially, I understood that the University values academic integrity, but I took it to be a set of rules for how you do your work. I failed to fully understand the Honor Code. I was referred to the Office of Student Conduct for giving an unauthorized level of help to a student, even though I did my assignment on my own. Because of my disregard for the professor's course policies, I failed to uphold the code of ethics that Maryland values so greatly.

I realized that by helping the other student in a way that was not allowed, I not only disrespected my professor, but I also disrespected my classmates and hindered learning for the student I helped. I understand now that I should have redirected my classmate, and friend, back to the teaching assistant or to the professor. I faced potentially being dismissed from the program entirely. I want to make sure every graduate student knows that this issue is so important that the University has sanctions that can include dismissal or suspension from the program for a violation of the Honor Code.

The need to understand what is allowed in each class is entirely our responsibility as students. Not fully knowing what is permitted is never an excuse. It is your duty to revisit the syllabus frequently, so that you can differentiate between the boundaries of what is and is not allowed. If you ever have any questions about what is permitted, be sure to ask your professor directly.

My experience with the Office of Student Conduct taught me a very important lesson – one that will hold true in the professional world. The level of collaboration allowed may vary from project to project in in my career the same way the guidelines vary from course to course at Smith. I want to iterate to the international community that the University of Maryland takes academic integrity very seriously, as it is essential for University's function and value system.

I hope that sharing my experience with you will allow you to learn from my own mistakes and create a student body even more committed than ever to upholding shared values and academic integrity.

Best of luck as you begin your academic career at the University of Maryland.