

**Modesto Junior College
Academic Senate
Resolution SP09-A1
Grading and Academic Dishonesty**

- Proposed by:** Academic Senate Executive Board
- Whereas:** It is considered standard practice that grades should be based on multiple measures, instead of one single measure; and
- Whereas:** Any one incident of academic dishonesty would be only one measure of a student's character and ability, and a failing grade based on that alone would be grading based on a single measure; and
- Whereas:** A grade of zero on the one assignment or activity in question should make it considerably harder for a student to earn a passing grade, especially considering the higher level of scrutiny that would be necessary after an incident of academic dishonesty, which is a reasonable consequence for the breach of proper conduct; and
- Whereas:** The current legal opinion for the California State Chancellor's Office is that one incident of plagiarism or other academic dishonesty cannot be used alone as a means of determining a student's grade; and
- Whereas:** We base our local policy on the current state of the law, legal opinion, or State-level policy, and not on what we hope that law, legal opinion, or State-level policy might be changed to in the future;
- Therefore:** **Be it resolved**, that it is the opinion of the Modesto Junior College Academic Senate that instructors should not at this time be given the power to base a student's final grade on one single incident of academic dishonesty, and that instructors should maintain the current right to give that assignment a grade of zero.
- First Reading:** April 23, 2009
- Final Action:** September 24, 2009
- Disposition:** Failed