

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: ADAPTING TO NEW CHALLENGES

## АКАДЕМІЧНА ЧЕСТНІСТЬ: АДАПТАЦІЯ ДО НОВИХ ВИКЛИКІВ

*Academic integrity is essential in higher education, shaping students' ethical values and preparing them for professional success. Upholding honesty and integrity fosters a culture of respect, collaboration, and intellectual growth. Research on academic integrity emphasizes the need to address ethical breaches and adapt to technological advancements that pose new challenges. Universities play a key role in promoting academic integrity by providing practical experiences and proactive approaches. Extra-curricular activities, like interdisciplinary conferences, complement formal curricula by enhancing leadership, communication, and critical thinking skills while instilling ethical conduct. Events such as the international student conferences at National Technical University of Ukraine foster academic integrity and language proficiency. Statistical data collected annually by the organizing committee to present it to the educational community and use for developing algorithms on improving the quality of submissions and measures to promote and cultivate the academic integrity. The statistical data from 2018–2022 in the current paper shows a decline in plagiarism submissions, indicating the effectiveness of chosen approaches and implemented measures. However, the statistics from 2023 reveals brand-new challenges like violations related to artificial intelligence highlight the need for ongoing efforts. In addition, a survey for revealing students' perceptions towards artificial intelligence is conducted. Student attitudes towards AI suggest a positive disposition, calling for a balanced approach to integrating technology while upholding academic integrity rather than prohibiting its use. It is essential for institutions to navigate the integration of AI ethically, ensuring a harmonious relationship between technological advances and academic standards.*

**Key words:** *academic integrity, misconduct, university, extra-curriculum, conference, statistics, students' perceptions.*

*Академічна доброчесність є невід'ємною складовою вищої освіти, формуючи етичні цінності студентів та готуючи їх до май-*

*бутнього професійного успіху. Дотримання академічної доброчесності сприяє культурі поваги, співпраці та інтелектуальному зростанню. Дослідження академічної доброчесності підкреслює необхідність вирішення етичних порушень та адаптації до технологічних змін, які створюють нові виклики. Університети відіграють ключову роль у просуванні академічної доброчесності, надаючи практичний досвід та впроваджуючи превентивні підходи в академічному середовищі. Поза аудиторні заходи, такі як міждисциплінарні конференції, доповнюють формальні програми навчання, розвиваючи лідерські, комунікативні та критичне мислення навички, вдосконалюючи етичну поведінку. Заходи, такі як міжнародні студентські конференції в Національному технічному університеті України «Київський політехнічний інститут», сприяють формуванню академічної доброчесності та мовній майстерності. Щорічні статистичні дані, які збирає організаційний комітет, демонструють зменшення кількості робіт, що містять плагіат, що свідчить про ефективність обраних підходів та застосованих заходів. Однак статистика за 2023 рік демонструє нові виклики, такі як порушення, пов'язані з використанням штучного інтелекту, що підкреслюють потребу в оновленні підходів. Крім того, проведено опитування для дослідження ставлення студентів до штучного інтелекту як інструменту в навчальному середовищі. Студентське ставлення до штучного інтелекту свідчить про позитивне відношення та є формуючою основою до розроблення збалансованого підходу до інтеграції технологій в академічне середовище та одночасно збереження домінуючих позицій академічної доброчесності. Для закладів вищої освіти важливо реалізувати інтеграцію штучного інтелекту, забезпечуючи гармонійність між технологічними змінами та академічними стандартами.*

**Ключові слова:** *академічна доброчесність, порушення, університет, позааудиторна діяльність, конференція, статистика, сприйняття студентів.*

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**Kornyska Yu.A.,**

Ph.D. (Education), Associate Professor, Associate Professor at the Department of English for Humanities №3 National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute"

**Tuliakova K.R.,**

Ph.D. (Education), Associate Professor, Associate Professor of the Department of English for Humanities № 3 National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute"

**Problem statement.** The academic integrity has always been in the core of quality higher education being not just a set of rules and regulations but also a philosophy. It has always functioned as a guiding principle and a moral compass for students who are supposed to not only demonstrate respect for the intellectual property of others but also confirm their own dedication to fairness and knowledge.

Academic integrity plays a vital role in promoting a culture of mutual respect. When students and professors accept and uphold the principles of honesty and integrity, they contribute to an environment where ideas can be exchanged freely, collaborations

flourish, and intellectual growth prosper that is vital to develop a healthy approach to academic, social and professional functions.

Beyond its in-moment implications, academic integrity also shapes future professionals by shaping values that are integral in professional functioning. Integrity, honesty, and ethical conduct are not merely abstract ideals but practical skills that are essential for success in any field. In the current business and social context, employers value individuals who demonstrate integrity in their work, as they can be trusted to uphold ethical standards, act with integrity, and contribute positively to their organizations.

In its essence, academic integrity is one of the pillars of quality education, shaping the ethical character, and professional competence of future personnel. By upholding and facilitating the principles of academic integrity, universities not only fulfill their mandate to provide knowledge but also empower students to become ethical leaders, responsible citizens, and agents of positive change in society.

**Recent research and publications.** Academic integrity has always been a focus for researchers. Currently, a significant body of research on the concepts of academic integrity and academic misconduct is available for the academic community [1–4; 7; 12–14]. A plethora of researchers analyses the forms and causes of breaches in ethical standards within academic settings, seeking to understand the factors contributing to such behaviors [5; 7; 14; 15]. A wide range of recent publications proposes preventive measures to address misconduct [3; 6; 10–12].

All these ongoing inquiries provide valuable insights into promoting ethical behavior in university settings. However, in recent decades, there has been a notable intensification in scholarly interest caused by the rapid advancement and proliferation of internet tools and technologies [10; 13]. This surge in attention reflects a growing recognition of the potential misuse of these tools in cheating behaviors.

Hence, despite the many years of cooperative efforts of the teaching community to educate students about academic integrity and facilitate a culture of honesty within universities, technological advances constantly pose new challenges. As such, universities have continuously to adapt and redevelop their strategies to stay ahead of the curve, ensuring that the integrity remains uncompromised in the new technological landscapes.

**The aim** of this manuscript is to share practical experience and proactive approach in promoting academic integrity and addressing emerging challenges in the changing technological landscape.

**Presentation of the main material.** In the context of university, the curriculum is a foundational framework to shape the culture of academic integrity. However, courses' intensity and class-hours constraints often limit its capacity to address comprehensively all the aspects. This is where extra-curricular events and activities emerge as important supplements, providing additional opportunities to develop an environment favorable to academic integrity within universities.

National Technical University of Ukraine Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute prides itself on offering a wide choice of activities and events for students to enrich their experience beyond the formal curricula. This plays a vital role in fostering holistic development and academic success.

By participating, students develop relevant leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills that

are essential for success in academic, social and future professional settings. Moreover, extra-curricular involvement shapes and strengthens a sense of belonging and connection to the university community, which, in turn, positively influences their academic performance and future career prospects.

Among these activities and events, interdisciplinary student conferences hold a special role. These conferences provide a platform for students to display their research, collaborate with peers from diverse academic backgrounds, and engage in interdisciplinary dialogue. By participating in such conferences, students not only deepen their understanding of their chosen field but also develop critical thinking, problem-solving, public speaking and presentation skills essential for success in their future careers.

Moreover, all these activities and events are platforms for promoting ethical conduct. For example, interdisciplinary conferences uphold strict guidelines regarding academic honesty and ethical conduct. Participants are to cite sources accurately, acknowledge the contributions of others, and uphold ethical standards in their research and presentations. By following these guidelines, students develop a deeper understanding of academic integrity and the importance of ethical conduct.

The department of English for Humanities has been holding the international students conference Ukrainian and Foreign Science: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow for 12 years engaging students to participate in workshops and webinars, present and discuss in an English language environment that, in addition to the aforementioned, enhances students' language proficiency, a crucial skill for today's globalized workforce.

The organizing committee uses the event as one more opportunity to promote academic integrity within the university community. In our context, we concur with Krueger defining academic misconduct as behaviors that violate the principles of academic honesty, wherein students attempt to unfairly gain an advantage for themselves [9]. Therefore, given that the conference is conducted in English and one of its aims is to display language proficiency, it is imperative to note that the use of automated translation tools is also regarded as a form of academic dishonesty.

On this way, the committee team interacts not only with the participants but also with the colleagues presenting the annual statistical data and developing algorithms on improving the quality of submissions and measures to promote and cultivate the academic integrity.

The Graph 1 presents statistical data spanning the years 2018–2023, displaying the reasons for declining submissions by the conference team. The data is categorized into “submitted” (the total amount of submitted theses) “declined 1,” (reason: plagiarism) “declined 2” (reason: wrong citing, conflict of interest,

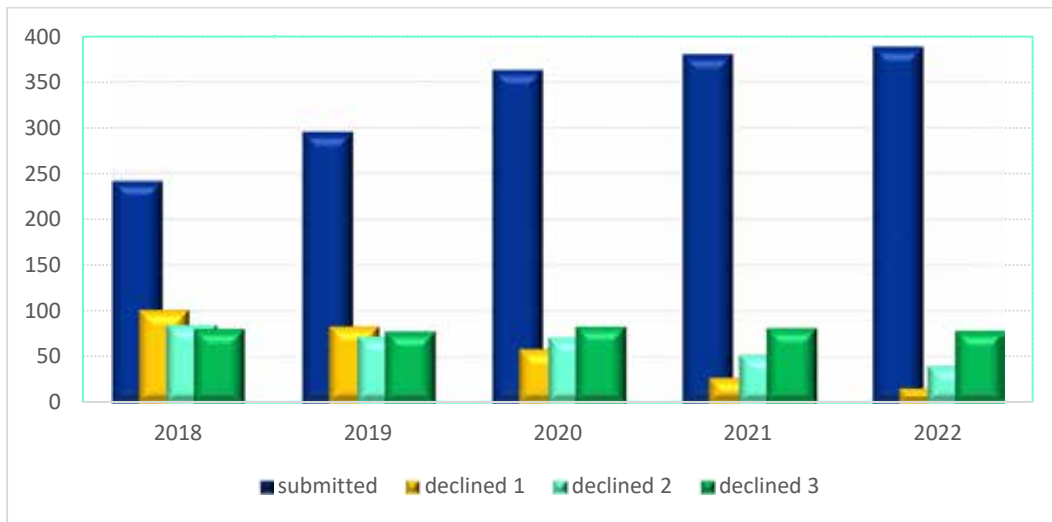
automated translation) and “declined 3” (reason: not relative for the current research such as “out of scope” etc.).

Over this timeframe, it is evident that there has been a constant and consistent decline in submissions attributed to plagiarism. We consider this decline as conclusive evidence of the efficiency of the implemented measures and initiatives. While submissions attributed to “wrong citing, automated translation etc.” have also decreased, the decline is not as pronounced. Thus, there is an obvious need to refine the algorithm of actions aimed at addressing these issues.

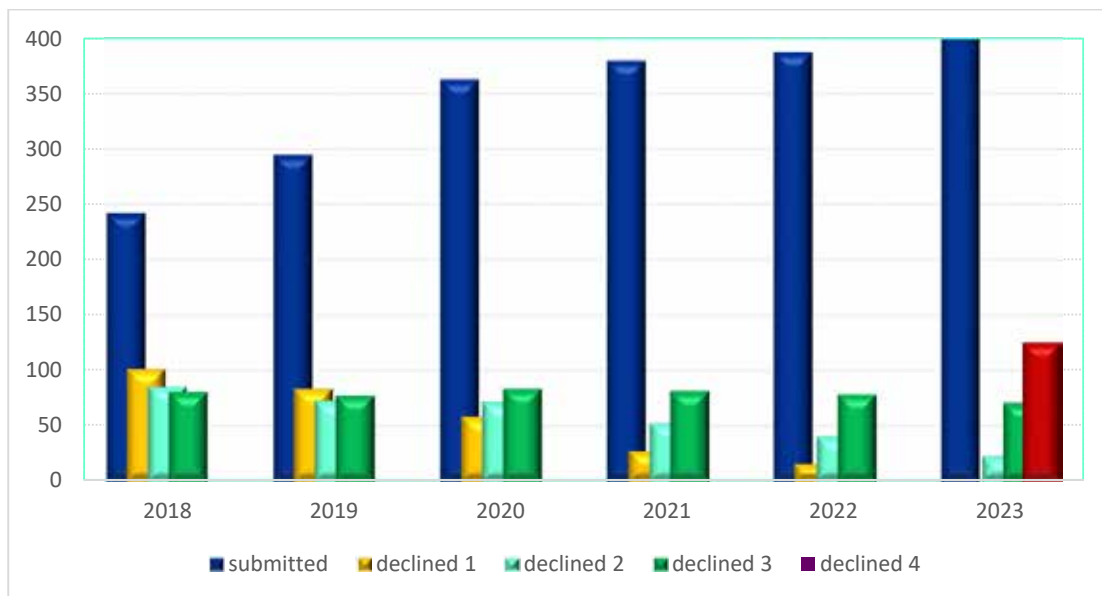
The category “other reasons” remains relatively stable throughout the analysed period, showing minimal fluctuations. This data suggests a positive trend in the reduction of plagiarism, improper citing practices and other misbehaviors related to academic integrity.

The Graph 2 demonstrates a sharp shift presenting the very new challenge. The upward trajectory observed in previous years was disrupted in 2023 by a notable increase in rejections attributed to violations of academic integrity related to artificial intelligence (declined 4). All the submitted theses were checked for AI-generated content and declined if the authors input was under 85 %. Consequently, we find the level of academic integrity awareness regressing.

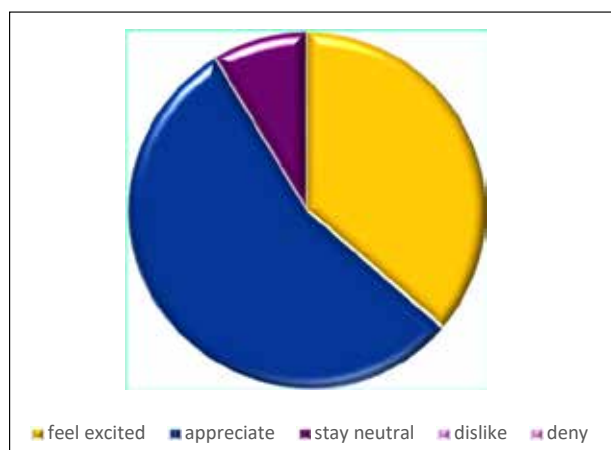
Having analysed the data on the reasons for the declining theses in the year 2023, we conducted a survey for students regarding their attitudes towards artificial intelligence. 250 participants were asked to share their attitude to artificial intelligence. As evident from Graph 3, the majority appreciate the opportunity to use it as a handy tool that can help and “easy” the



**Graph 1. Statistical data 2018–2022**



**Graph 2. Statistical data 2018–2023**



**Graph 3. 2023 survey:  
students' attitudes towards artificial intelligence**

study load (121 students). A smaller part perceive the capabilities of artificial intelligence with high enthusiasm (80 students). A negligible portion stay neutral but satisfied with the availability of another tool that they can try (19 students). Notably, no negative reactions were detected, indicating a positive disposition and high enthusiasm towards this technology.

**Conclusion.** The analysis of the obtained results has led us the following key conclusions:

It is imperative to acknowledge that ignoring the issues related to artificial intelligence or other technological tools is an impractical approach.

Moreover, it is essential to avoid implementing a blanket prohibition on the use of AI to prevent misconceptions about academic integrity. Given that students perceive AI as a cutting-edge tool, prohibitions and total rejection may develop the incorrect perception that AI is progressive while academic integrity is outdated and inflexible.

We consider this direction as significant for further research and implementation, particularly as AI becomes increasingly integrated into our social, academic, and professional landscapes. Therefore, it is crucial to find a place for AI and other technological advances in academic settings.

Currently, our team is working on methods to integrate AI into our university landscape without compromising the principles of academic integrity. This aims to provide students with the opportunity to benefit from the technology they are enthusiastic about but in an ethical and fair way.

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