

# Academic Honor Code: Students & Parents

Academic integrity is the foundation of ethical research and the bedrock of our work at Indigo Research. All Indigo students, parents, mentors, and team members are required to sign our Academic Honor Code, in keeping with standard practice at colleges, universities, and legitimate research institutions. Please read this form carefully, sign it, and email it to [hello@indigoresearch.org](mailto:hello@indigoresearch.org) by your second meeting with your Indigo Mentor.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to embrace Indigo's Academic Honor Code and adhere to all of the following rules while working on my Indigo project, even after my in-person sessions with my mentor have concluded.

- I will not use ChatGPT or AI of any kind to generate writing or ideas for my paper.
  - If my research project requires me to use AI, my research mentor must approve of the way[s] in which I am engaging with AI.
  - I understand that my mentor has also signed Indigo's Academic Honor Code and is not permitted to allow me to use AI to generate writing or ideas for my paper.
- I will be the sole author of the ideas, graphics, and writing in my paper.
  - I will not allow any individual to line-edit my writing, except in rare cases when my research mentor would like to suggest an edit for the purpose of grammatical or stylistic clarity. Note: this provision is solely intended to include students who have not yet benefited from a thorough education in the English language or who speak English as a second language.
  - I will not allow any individual to do my analysis or write my code for me. I may ask my mentor for guidance and examples when completing difficult analysis, but I will complete 100% of the analysis in my project.
  - I will never copy or borrow ideas from any other individual, whether that person is a classmate, a mentor, or a source on the internet.
- I will not complete any actions related to academic dishonesty or cheating or aid/abet an act of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty and examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:

- Copying another student's work or utilizing any sources or data for their projects without the approval of their Indigo Mentor.
- Submitting work previously created for another course or research program without the faculty's knowledge and written permission.
- Any attempt to improve academic performance by presenting misleading information and/or making deceptive statements or falsifying documents.
- Fabricating a citation, using a false citation, or submitting a partially inaccurate citation.
- Any act of plagiarism is the fraudulent presentation of the work of others as original. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
  - including a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks, an in-text citation, and a full citation in the Works Cited page, bibliography, endnotes, or footnotes;
  - including a paraphrased passage from another writer's work without properly citing or attributing that passage to its original author;
  - including ideas, sound recordings, video content, computer data, or images composed or created by someone else; and,
  - theft of another student's work and presenting it as one's own.
- I am responsible for being aware of and utilizing the proper procedures for researching, writing, and presenting my work.
  - These procedures vary depending on region, but I will follow Indigo's regulations while participating in its programs.
  - After the completion of my time with Indigo, I may not violate Indigo's academic integrity policies while revising or presenting my final project and still claim affiliation with my Indigo Mentor[s] or Indigo more broadly.
- I understand that there are legal and ethical restrictions relating to creative and intellectual property and consequences to dishonesty in the professional world as well as in academia.
- I will acknowledge my mentor and Indigo Research, thanking them for their guidance in my final paper.
- In the "Acknowledgements" section of my paper, I will also write and sign the following statement: "I attest that the ideas, graphics, and writing in this paper are entirely my own."
- I will cite every source that I use to inform my paper, adhering to the citation conventions that my mentor and I select (e.g., MLA, Chicago, MHRA, APA). I understand that I must cite sources that I paraphrase as well as sources that I quote.

- I affirm that it is my responsibility to ensure that any primary data collection conducted for my Indigo project — whether by myself, my Indigo mentor, or another member of Indigo’s scholarly community — is conducted in an ethical and safe manner, with any necessary institutional approval (usually IRB approval). I understand that Indigo cannot provide IRB approval and that I must work with my mentor before beginning data collection to seek approval for any project that may require IRB approval in a university setting. I accept that it may not be possible for me to complete primary data collection without applying for IRB or SRC approval. I promise that if and when I do receive IRB or SRC approval, I will have read and understood the ethical principles governing human subjects research, including respect for persons, beneficence, and justice, and I commit to applying these principles throughout my research.
- I accept that Indigo Research cannot guarantee the publication of my paper or project. Indigo can offer guidance, support, and knowledge, but no legitimate academic institution in the world can guarantee publication or success at the outset of a project.
- I will approach this project with curiosity, energy, and dedication to develop the new skills and knowledge necessary to produce a college-level research project. I accept that this project will be challenging, and if I am to reach my goal of producing a paper, I will need to put work and ingenuity into this paper for homework.
- I understand that if I violate Indigo’s Academic Honor Code at any time (including after my one-on-one sessions with my mentor conclude), I may be asked to terminate my Indigo package and/or inform a scholarly publication venue or university that I have violated Indigo’s Honor Code, and with full knowledge of my offense.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Indigo Mentor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents & Caregivers, we ask that you also sign below affirming that you are wholly aware of Indigo’s Academic Honor Code and particularly of the fact that, while we will do everything in our power to ethically support our students, we cannot guarantee student outcomes or publications. We also ask that you pledge to support your student in adhering to Indigo’s Academic Honor Code, which will prepare them to sign analogous honor codes in college.

Parent or Caregiver Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_