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## SECTION 3: POLICIES & PROCEDURES

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This section covers policies related to academic integrity, accommodations, and University policies and procedures.

### Christian Foundations of Academic Integrity

**Biblical.** Regent University affirms the Biblical commandment of “Thou shalt not steal” (Exodus 20:15). In the context of academic integrity, this must be understood in the larger framework of “Love thy neighbor as thyself,” (Matthew 22:39) as well as “Render therefore unto Caesar what are Caesar’s; and unto God what are God’s” (Matthew 22:21). Paul writes from this framework of love and respect when he says, “Pay to all what is owed them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed” (Romans 13:7). Each of these passages conveys the social obligation to respect the dignity of both the personhood and the property of those in society. Paul thus prescribes the Biblical standard of honest, hard work as a key to respecting each other’s personhood and property. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul even provides counsel to those who have committed theft, stating, “Let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need” (4:28). As such, the God of the Bible mandates a higher life than the world requires, a life in which Christians participate in the love and dignity God holds for himself as Father, Son, and Spirit. Indeed, even as Christ honors and acknowledges the will of his Father and the works of his Spirit, so should Christians honor and acknowledge the wills and works of those that provide opportunities to edify their minds and hearts with the knowledge and wisdom of sound scholarship. In doing so, Christians follow the Biblical precept of integrity that is founded on love and respect and enables them to learn both from one another and those outside the faith.

**Philosophical.** Regent University also affirms the necessity of recognizing the classical virtues when deriving a foundation for academic integrity, particularly the virtue of diligence. The virtues dictate that researchers should consider morality first. In other words, one’s sense of expediency must always follow from that which is right, not from that which is convenient. Cicero comments that, in order to act morally, individuals must act in a manner that prevents themselves from being placed in a position where they must choose between convenience and morality, or, stated differently, into a position where they “consider one thing to be right but not expedient, and another to be expedient but not right” (102). The virtues, therefore, require diligence in order to act morally upright – diligence to plan ahead, diligence to rationally consider the context of the moral situation, and diligence to act Biblically not just ethically. For that which is ethical to the world is never necessarily moral before Christ. (Cicero, Marcus Tullius. *On Moral Obligations*. Trans. John Higginbotham. London: Faber and Faber LTD, 1967. Print.)

**Legal.** Finally, Regent University affirms the necessity of equipping students for the reality of functioning within a society bound by laws, including copyright laws. Paul speaks clearly about a Christian’s responsibility to abide by the laws of the land. He concludes that authority is ultimately from God, so believers must work within that God-ordained system (Romans 13). Thus, in mastering the art and science of proper attribution of sources, students are participating in the Biblical tradition of exhibiting reverence for the divine institute of law as well as giving honor where honor is due.

## **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

The policy and intent of Regent University is to fully and completely comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008, to the extent that they apply to the university. Regent University will not discriminate against another wise qualified student with a disability in the admissions process or any academic activity or program, including student-oriented services. Regent University will provide a reasonable accommodation to the known physical and mental limitations of a qualified individual with a disability, unless to do so would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the university, or unless it would fundamentally alter a degree or course requirement. Qualified students must request reasonable accommodations for disabilities through the Disability Services Coordinator in Student Services.

[http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/student\\_life/disabilities.cfm](http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/student_life/disabilities.cfm)

## **University Policies and Procedures**

For information about student records, privacy, and other University policies and procedures, students are directed to the most recent version of the Student Handbook located at

<http://www.regent.edu/admin/stusrv/docs/StudentHandbook.pdf>.