

25 Million Fraud Victims Lost \$3 Billion in 2013



What should you do if you see fraud?

Report any suspected fraud, waste, and abuse to VSU's Hotline www.valdosta.alertline.com 877-516-3470. Note that whistleblowers are protected from retaliation by Georgia State Law and Board of Regents policy

Why should I care? Fraud means there is less money for employers to pay salaries to employees. Employers may be forced to lay off **employees** and the public may lose trust in the organization causing further financial losses.

For **students** this loss of trust means fewer donors will provide money for scholarships. The cost of education goes up for everyone. Examples of recent frauds in the news highlight the financial and reputational costs to universities:

- An investigation of academic fraud at UNC cost the institution \$490,000.
- Florida State's academic fraud scandal didn't just cost the university the 2007 national championship in men's track, 12 football victories over two seasons, four years of probation from the NCAA, the loss of several athletic scholarships, and an unquantifiable damage to its reputation. It also cost FSU nearly \$300,000 in consulting and legal fees.

There are also hidden costs to student and future employees. The more students cheat, getting by without achieving the required skills or learning, the lower the quality of the average graduate of an institution, and eventually fewer employers willing to hire from that school. Because of this reason, all students, even those that do not cheat, are negatively affected by academic misconduct. Why do people commit fraud? They have the chance to do so, they have the need to do so, and they can rationalize their actions by telling themselves things like "I deserve this" or "my boss deserves this".

The temptation to act dishonestly at work can be enticing. What does fraud, waste, and abuse look like? Certainly none of these things are "crimes of the century", but have you or do you know of anyone who has:

- Taken a box of pens?
- Taken a sick day without being sick?
- Taken a sick day and then "forgotten" to put it on their time card?
- Let a friend into a football game without paying?
- Used Facebook or Twitter on company time?
- Used a company vehicle for personal business?
- Accepted gifts in exchange for hiring someone?
- Paid someone for work they did not do?
- Illegally downloaded music or movies or software?
- Reported as a workplace injury something that happened outside of work?
- Used work time for personal business or on-line shopping?

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Have you ever or do you know anyone who has ever:

- Altered records (for instance, inventory to account for missing goods) to cover up poor performance?
- Backdated documents and reports to make it look like you completed them on time?
- Deleted records that should have been kept so no one could see mistakes you made?
- Changed hours worked on time cards?
- Taken a trip for business purposes but went to Disneyworld instead?
- Purchased personal items with business funds?
- Presented the ideas of others as your own?
- Submitted reimbursement claims for personal expenditures?



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