Applicants to all MDEMA scholarships must abide by the MDEMA Code of Academic Integrity.

Students found to be in violation of any part of these rules will be disqualified from scholarship award competition. If a student is found to be in violation and wishes to appeal, they may contact XXXX at [insert email here].

1. Academic integrity prohibits cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of dishonesty in a student’s application materials. We expect you to submit your own work, in your own words; and if you use materials from other sources, we expect you to provide credit to those sources’ creators appropriately.
2. Cheating is the intentional or attempted act of deliberately misleading the Scholarship Committee regarding your application materials. This may include, but is not limited to:
   1. Having someone else write your essay for you
   2. Intentionally lying about your region of residence or student status
   3. Submitting fake or altered transcripts
3. Plagiarism is the presentation of ideas or words as your own when they’ve actually been borrowed from another source, and not giving credit to that source when you do it. This may include, but is not limited to:
   1. Replicating (in whole or in part) the work or words of someone else in your application materials without quotation marks and/or proper citations to indicate that it did not come exclusively from you.
      1. It is still plagiarism if you use a direct quote and cite it, but do not use quotation marks.
      2. It is still plagiarism if you just use quotation marks but do not cite where the source of the quote is.
   2. Just paraphrasing or rewording another author (or another student)’s work without acknowledging that it came from them, whether through citation or in the text.
      1. Submitting materials where you just took something created by another author and rearranged the words is still plagiarism
4. Other forms of dishonesty vary, but may include things like:
   1. Submitting citations or sources that are just made up.
   2. Submitting an essay that was written for another reason and that you’re just re-using for this application.
   3. In the event that a student includes specific data or measurements in their materials, just making up those numbers is not okay.

A note on the use of generative Artificial Intelligence tools (e.g., ChatGPT and others like it):

The Scholarship Committee understands that AI products are becoming increasingly common, both as a helpful creative support tool and as an unhelpful substitute for doing one’s own necessary work. In light of that, while we do not prohibit the use of all AI in your application materials, there are uses which cross the line into one or more forms of academic dishonesty (see above) and are therefore not allowed. These include, but are not limited to:

* Submitting an essay written by an AI tool.
* Submitting substantial parts of an essay written by an AI tool.
  + If you would like to use a sentence or two provided by an AI tool, you should use quotation marks and cite them just as if the AI was another human author.
* Submitting an essay where you put the prompt into an AI tool, copy/pasted the results, and then rearranged the words.
* Citing sources created/provided by an AI tool that do not really exist.

Examples of uses of AI tools that ARE acceptable include:

* Asking an AI tool to offer you some sources to better inform your response, then reviewing them yourself and citing them properly if you include them in your essay.
* Using an AI tool to learn more about a topic you might want to include in your essay, but doing the actual writing yourself.
* Using an AI tool to help improve your grammar, fix spelling mistakes, or other spellcheck-type functions.

If an unauthorized use(s) of AI are reasonably suspected by the Scholarship Committee, they may be considered a violation of the Code of Academic Integrity the same as more traditional forms of cheating, and your essay or application may be disqualified.

In short, we’re glad to see you use technology to help polish and enable your work – that’s an important skill in emergency management. But at the end of the day, it must really be *your* work. If we wanted to give a scholarship to a machine we’d invite them to participate instead.