

Academic Honesty



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The Challenge

- How can we balance the following?
 - Helping a friend on an assignment
 - Doing individual work for assignments
- Everyone's Experience
 - How many people have been asked by a friend to help with some homework?
 - How many people have seen someone cheat on an exam (or know of it happening)?

In most 1st year classes, we catch 5-10 students who go too far.

Topics

- 1) What is the line between helping a friend and doing their work for them.
- 2) What are some strategies to avoid going too far?
- 3) How is fairness ensured in this course?

The line between
helping and cheating

Guide to Avoid Problems

Think Together:

- Discuss the material and deepen your understanding.
- Don't leave with any written (or typed) designs, algorithms, answers or code.

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Work Apart:

- With your own knowledge, do all the work by yourself.
- Do the work to learn the material. It'll pay off on the final.
- Cite any sources you quote or paraphrase.

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Academic Dishonesty Examples

- Not protecting your work:
 - Showing/giving your work to a class mate.
 - Posting it online: web site / forum.
- Not doing your own work:
 - Accepting work from someone else.
 - Copy from the internet.

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Strategies to avoid going too far

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Reasons for Academic Dishonesty:

- 1) No time to do the work.
 - Start...days before it's due.
 - Give yourself:
 - Time to ask questions.
 - Time to learn.

Source: Physics study at MIT: Palazzo et. al. (2010)
Patterns, correlates, and reduction of homework copying.

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Reasons for Academic Dishonesty:

2) Feel cannot learn the material.

- Take ownership of your learning.
- Doing the work teaches the material.
 - Computing science is a skill.
 - Try extra examples.
- Ask instructor, TAs, or student learning commons.
We are here to help! We are nice people. :)

Source: Physics study at MIT: Palazzo et. al. (2010)
Patterns, correlates, and reduction of homework copying.

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Reasons for Academic Dishonesty:

3) Helping a Friend

“Friend” asks to “borrow” or “compare” answers.

- Ask friends for help with... general understanding
- Ask instructor or TAs for specific help on assignments.
- Suggestion:
If you want to get to know someone better,
buy them a coffee; don't show them your work.

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Ensuring fairness

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Success: Academic Honesty

- I am **passionate** about giving credit to students who do the work.
- My Promise:

We will:

- 1) prove you did the work, and
- 2) give you the credit!

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Success: Honest Assignments

Things we will do...

- Each assignment marked by 1 TA
- www.google.com
- Use automated plagiarism detection tool.

Which means...

- Notice duplicate answers.
- Suspicious text and code will be searched.
- Finds “over enthusiastic collaboration”.

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Success: Honest Tests

Things we may do...

- Multiple exam versions.
- Recorded seat locations.
- Require doctor's note for illness (see web).

Which means...

- Neighbours have different questions.
- Check for similar answers between adjacent seats.
- Only compelling medical reasons will warrant a makeup exam.

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Consequences

- Proven cases will result in:
 - Failing grade on the work.
 - Possibly referred to the director of CS.
 - Discipline letter on file with computing science and SFU Registrar.
- Serious or Repeat offences:
 - Suspension for 1 or more terms.
 - Expulsion from the university.



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Review

- Good advice for academic honesty:
Think together, but... work apart.
- What could you say to a “friend” who says:
I'm having trouble with the assignment.
Can you email me your solution so I can see how to do it. I promise I won't copy it.
- Academic dishonesty on an exam may lead to a grade of... F for the course.

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Summary

- Balance helping a friend with individual work:
 - OK to discuss ideas together.
 - Doing your own work.
 - Protecting your work.
- Plan ahead: leave enough time to learn.
- Many tools used to give marks to those doing their own work.
 - And those not doing the work don't get the marks.