
ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Don't do it!



Don't do it!

- “Any activity that tends to compromise the integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process”



I sit on the committee...

- We had 800 cases last year
- With technology, it gets easier and easier for students to cheat
- It also gets easier and easier for us to catch them



Examples of violations

- Violation of course rules
 - » Read the syllabus!
 - » Some professors expect you to work in groups, some forbid it! Find out.
 - » Can you bring a sheet of equations to the exam? Find out!
- Violation of program regulations



Another violation

- Knowingly providing or receiving information during an exam or assignment
 - » Even if you can see that person's exam, don't even look in that general direction!
 - » If it looks like you may have been looking, the instructor is **REQUIRED** to report it
 - » If it looks like you are tipping your exam so someone else can see it, that's just as bad
 - » If you tend to look around the room absent-mindedly during an exam, sit in the front row



Another kind of violation

- Possession and/or use of unauthorized materials
 - » When they tell you to put your phone away, put it *AWAY* away!
 - » Just having it nearby, even if off, can be enough to suspect you
 - » Put it in a bag or something under your chair



Another kind of violation

- Knowingly providing or using assistance in the lab, field work, or course assignment, unless such assistance has been specifically authorized by the instructor
 - » If the professor says you can work together, you can ask a friend
 - » Otherwise, DO NOT
 - » That includes your good friend Google



Submission of work not performed in a course

- Includes falsified data
- Includes submitting work you did for one course in another course (even a course you took at another university! Yes, we have seen it!)
 - » Also, if you repeat a course, you must do all the assignments anew, fresh!



Plagiarism

SEVERITY

#1



Clone

Submitting another's work, word-for-word, as one's own

#2



CTRL-C

Containing significant portions of text from a single source without alterations

#3



Find - Replace

Changing key words and phrases but retaining the essential content of the source

#4



Remix

Mixing paraphrased material from multiple sources

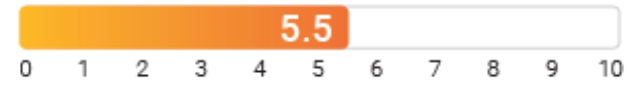
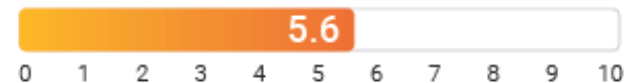
#5



Recycle

Borrowing generously from one's previous work without citation

FREQUENCY



Do not even plagiarize yourself

- That's the same as resubmitting the same work for multiple assignments



Plagiarism



Turnitin (for example)

- There is software out there that compares what you turned in to
 - » Every other assignment ever turned in for that course
 - » Anything online
 - Including so-called “homework” sites
- Instructor gets a full report showing the sources, what is the same, the percentage overlap...
- Instructor is **REQUIRED** to report if it is too similar
- You can use this yourself to make sure you aren't too close to the original- even originals you've never seen



False!

- "If it's not copyrighted, it's OK to copy it"
 - » It's still not your work!
 - » Citing is FREE! Just do it!
 - » Don't forget this applies to images, not just text and equations



Examples

- You present a derivation in your dissertation. You change the words, maybe even the notation, but the steps and logic are the same.
 - » You must cite the source- the logic and thought is not yours
- You use a table from someone else's paper, but you change the font and the colors of the lines
 - » Cite it- it's still someone else's work
 - » If you add rows, make it clear what is the other person's data and what you have added
 - » If you delete rows, use "After..." and cite it
- You see a great picture that perfectly illustrates your point. You redraw it a little, but it's essentially the same idea
 - » Just use the original and cite it! If you redraw it, say "After XYZ" where XZY is the citation



Other violations

- Falsification, fabrication, or dishonesty in conducting or reporting laboratory or research results
 - » We see this all the time- sometimes students submit lab reports describing an experiment that was done last semester but isn't in the current course- FOOL!
 - » Sometimes students think it is important to obtain the expected results- but the instructor may know something you don't know, some reason why this experiment always gives a surprise result or the reagent has expired to it is not possible for the experiment to "work"
 - » Don't take a chance! Report your results honestly



Other violations

- ❑ Serving as or asking someone else to serve as a substitute while taking an exam
- ❑ Alteration of grades in an effort to change earned credit or a grade
- ❑ Alteration and or unauthorized use of university forms or records



Homework sites

- ❑ Watch out, they are very sneaky!
- ❑ They may offer “examples” or “homework help” or even “online tutoring”
- ❑ Some pretend to offer scholarships in exchange for YOU to upload YOUR homework for them to turn around and sell to others.
- ❑ Don't do it! Steer very clear of those sites



Uploading material to homework sites

- It is Academic Misconduct to upload your assignments to these sites
 - » Even if no one ever uses it
 - » Even if you get nothing in return
 - » Just providing it is a violation of the Code of Student Conduct



Why do people cheat?

- Some people are just sleazeballs
- Sometimes, though, even nice people get in a panic
 - » They are behind and running out of time
 - » This assignment is REALLY important
 - » Whatever, whatever, whatever
- Don't give in to temptation! Better to get a bad grade than thrown out of the university



“Bob” has a minor academic misconduct violation

- Forgot he had other tabs open in his browser while taking an online exam
 - » Didn't use them, and can even prove it
 - » But they were there, violation of course rules, even though he didn't actually cheat
- Bob had hoped to ask this instructor to be his PhD advisor
 - » Prof. X is not going to take him on



So Bob asks Prof Y

- Y asks X “Why didn’t you take Bob into your lab?”
- Prof. X can NOT discuss your case with anyone
 - » But he can just say something like “I don’t recommend this student to you.”
- Now Bob has little chance of finding an advisor
- Even though his infraction was minor, he ends up leaving the university anyway



What happens if you are suspected

- We are required to report any suspected cases of Academic Misconduct to a university Committee
- We can NOT make a judgement based on anything you say later, only the Committee can decide
 - » If an instructor accuses you of AM and says “I’ll just give you a zero this time...” then you can report HER to the Committee



Once reported

- You will meet with the coordinator
 - » You have the option to take an “Administrative Decision” and he decides the penalty
 - » Or, you can request a hearing
 - The instructor provides their evidence
 - You tell your perception of the incident
 - The committee asks you both questions
 - The committee decides “in violation” or “not in violation”
- Know that the Committee is conscientious and careful- many people are found to be NOT in violation after hearing the evidence from both sides



What can happen if you're found in violation

- There are two kinds of sanctions (you will get both)
- Disciplinary Sanction (warning, probation, etc.)
- Grade Sanction (could be zero on the assignment, reduction of the final course grade, suspension for one or more terms, dismissal from the university, or *a combination*)



Final comment

- Of course no one says academic misconduct is OK
 - » But, in some cultures, it is understood that if someone has the chance to cheat they will, that “everyone does it,” or that they can bribe or talk their way out of it later
- At Ohio State, we take this stuff VERY seriously- don't test us



***AND THAT'S WHY YOUR
DEGREE MEANS SOMETHING!***



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING