

Cheating Policy

We understand that most of you would never consider cheating in any form. There is, however, a small minority of students for whom this is not the case. In the past, when we have caught students cheating they have often insisted that they did not understand the rules and penalties. For this reason we require that each student read, sign and return this document.

- You *may* verbally collaborate on homework problems and programming assignments **with up to two (2) other people**. On each problem and program that you hand in, you must include the names of the (at most two other) students with whom you have had discussions concerning your solution. Indicate whether you gave help, received help, or worked something out together.
- You *may* get help from anyone concerning programming issues which are clearly more general than the specific assignment (e.g., what does a particular error message mean?)
- You *may not* share written work or programs with anyone else.
- You *may not* receive help from students who have taken the course in previous years.
- You *may not* review any course materials (or software) from previous years.
- You *may not* look up the answer to a homework assignment which happens to appear in the published literature or on the web.

Thus, clear examples of cheating include:

- Showing a draft of a written solution, or your code, to another student.
- Sharing any written work. Including copying down solutions others have written on a whiteboard.
- Collaborating on a HW with more than two other people.
- Not listing all your collaborators' names on your homework submission.
- Emailing (or IM'ing) fragments of your written solution to other students.
- Getting help from someone whom you do not acknowledge on your solution.
- Google-ing for specific keywords that happen to appear in the current homework assignment.
- Copying from another student during an exam.
- Receiving exam-related information from a student who has already taken the exam.
- Attempting to hack any part of the 15-251 infrastructure.
- Looking at someone else's work on AFS, *even if the file permissions allow it*.
- Lying to the course staff

Our reaction to your cheating will vary according to the situation.

- Confession: If you cheat and you freely admit it, we will take that into consideration. We will either give you zeroes on the relevant assignments, or fail you in the course.
- Denial: If you do not admit that you have cheated, we will provide our evidence that you have done so. We will at the very least fail you in the class.

All cheating issues are handled in accordance with the University Guidelines on Collaboration and Cheating: <http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/Cheating.html> (case-sensitive URL). Note that these rules require all cheating cases to be documented and reported to the relevant authorities, including the dean of student affairs, and dean of your college, which causes it to be placed on your permanent record.

I, _____, have read and understood the above 15-251 cheating policy on collaboration and cheating. I agree to honor the rules which the policy describes.

Sign your name: