

# Academic integrity

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# Why you should practice academic integrity

**Academic integrity** – doing the work assigned to you yourself – is in your interest:

- ▶ This course teaches fundamental skills you will develop and use over and over again in your degree and professional life
- ▶ If you get through this course without building these skills, you will struggle in later courses which assume you have them
- ▶ Assignments are mostly there to help learning
  - 63% of course marks unconnected to assignments
  - the final exam is a hurdle

It is also an **ethical** and **disciplinary** issue:

- ▶ ANU information, policy and procedures can be found [here](#)
- ▶ Yes, we do catch a number of people each year, and there are consequences

# What counts as plagiarism

- ▶ Work will be considered not your own if it looks so much like other work (for example, that of another student) that we cannot believe that the work was produced individually
- ▶ Viewing another person's assignment code or report text is very **dangerous**
- ▶ But it is possible to plagiarise without seeing each other's code, if a discussion about an assignment becomes excessively detailed
- ▶ Any use of sources without citation. But it is still plagiarism if you use someone else's solution for an individual assignment, even with citation

# What does not count as plagiarism

- ▶ Discussions at the level of concepts, but not of solutions
  - This includes assignments
  - For example, discussions of relevant parts of the lecture notes
- ▶ Anything to do with lab material, where group study is fine  
(but we do not recommend getting someone else to do your labs!)

# What happens to plagiarism cases

- ▶ There is an investigation and an interview
  - Can be stressful
  - Can take time
- ▶ Assessment marks are reduced heavily, often to 0%
- ▶ Information is recorded against your name by the university, which will be seen by academics in any setting where the (internal) academic transcript is relevant

# Working with integrity successfully

- ▶ Group study is great! But **not** for assignments
- ▶ If you cannot answer part of the assignment, you can find help at
  - Labs
  - Drop-in consultations
  - Ed Discussions (keep your code private!)
- ▶ If you still cannot answer part of an assignment, that's okay! Do your best, and get more detailed help after the deadline

# AI-produced code

Large language model AIs (like ChatGPT) have been much in the news lately

- ▶ They are very interesting
- ▶ Some are good enough to solve **small** programming exercises
- ▶ But **not even close** to the level you should aspire to attain as an ANU Computing graduate
- ▶ Can be useful as grammar checkers for reports

Practically:

- ▶ They are **not available** during exams
- ▶ Their use for labs and assignments is **discouraged**

# A warning about “tutors”

There are people or organisations offering “tutoring”

- ▶ Approach these with skepticism  
(even if they have official-looking offices in Canberra)
- ▶ Some of these are **plagiarism facilitators**
- ▶ Some of them have even engaged in **blackmail**
- ▶ We regularly catch people who use these “services”: They may be expensive but **they do not care** if their clients get caught