15-122: Principles of Imperative Computation, Summer 2012 Ethics and Cheating Policy

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Out: Tuesday, May 22, 2012
Due: Wednesday, May 23, 2012

1   Introduction

As members of this university community, it is your responsibility to act fairly so that you and your fellow classmates may learn as much as possible from lectures and assignments, and that credit be fairly distributed amongst people who earn that credit. This course policy aims to outline what kinds of behavior are to be encouraged (collaboration, honesty, and hard work) and disallowed (copying one another's work, finding answers to questions online). The university has an academic integrity policy, which we will follow:

`http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/Cheating.html`

You must read the above page, sign and return this policy, indicating you understand and agree to follow its intent, before we will grade any of your assignments. We will be using Moss to find plagiarism of programming assignments.

2   Examples of appropriate behavior

1. Discussing exercises when *no member of the group has solved them.* The general rule is the following: do not write solutions together, either on the whiteboard, on paper, or on a computer, but you can brainstorm or come up with a general solution concept together. Then, erase the whiteboard, throw away any notes you took, go home, and write up your solutions separately.

2. Asking a TA to look over your code if you are having trouble debugging something

3. Be reasonable. You can help another student sort out a compilation error, but you cannot help them debug their entire program.

3   Examples of cheating

1. Reading any part of solutions (found online, or another students') for an assignment or exam at any time before that assignment is due. This includes copying another student's work verbatim or turning in someone else's writeup as your own.

2. Giving your solutions, verbally or in written form, to another student before the assignment is due.

3. Writing up assignments together, either to written components of the homework or to the programming component.

4. Asking for "hints" from someone who's already solved the problem

5. Communicating in any way during an exam

6. Taking the weekly quizes while communicating with another student

Note that this is *not* an exhaustive list, but it is meant to give you an idea of what sorts of behaviors are unacceptable. *When in doubt, ask the course staff whether a particular action is appropriate.*

4   Sanctions

This course will work best if everyone works hard: if everyone works hard and learns the material, **it is the instructor's prerogative to give everyone good grades. This course is not a competition.** This is the best possible outcome for everyone.

If the course staff believes you to have been involved in breaking this code of ethics, they will send you an email. You will have 48 hours to respond and talk with us in person. The course staff has discretion to choose the appropriate disciplinary action; these options include but are not limited to:

- A 0 on the assignment which was unfairly constructed

- Lowering of the final course grade of the student implicated

- Failing the course

- Being brought before an Academic Integrity board for possible expulsion from Carnegie Mellon

5   Signature

I hereby acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to adhere to this ethics policy. If I am found to have broken this policy, I understand that disciplinary actions will be taken against me, including a possibility of failing this course.

_____ (Signature)_____ (Date)