

# CS 2420 | Introduction to Algorithms and Data Structures

## Academic Misconduct Policy

### 1. Definition of academic misconduct

As defined in the University Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities, academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information. It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct<sup>1</sup>. A primary example of academic misconduct would be submitting as one's own, work that is copied from another student or an outside source.

In CS 2420, students are encouraged to discuss assignments and laboratory exercises with fellow classmates, but each student is responsible for writing his/her own answer. *Academic misconduct is*: sharing written or electronic work either by copying, retyping, looking at, or supplying a copy. This includes copying, retyping, or looking at your own copy from a previous instantiation of the course. *Academic misconduct is not*: discussing concepts, answering questions about concepts or clarifying ambiguities, or helping someone understand how to use the class tools and software.

If any student discusses assignments or laboratory exercises with others, he/she must leave the discussion with nothing written or typed. This is the best way to ensure each student constructs his/her own solution, and that the work submitted by each student honestly represents his/her understanding of the course material.

**Pair programming.** When assignments are explicitly designated as pair programming, the two students in a pair should collaborate on the program code freely—designing, constructing, debugging, and testing it together. Sharing any program code among students in different pairs is academic misconduct.

**Analysis documents.** When assignments require that written documents accompany the program code, each student in a pair is responsible for writing his/her own documents. Partners are encouraged to share design ideas and strategies, as well as, program running times, data from experiments, and conclusions on efficiency. However, each student in a pair must do his/her own writing and generation of plots. Copying among partners on analysis documents is academic misconduct.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/guides/students/studentRights.html>

*Submissions of program code and documents are routinely checked by the course staff for signs of unauthorized collaboration.*

**Tests.** There are three tests throughout the semester in CS 2420. Communicating with anyone (even someone not enrolled in CS 2420) about the contents of the test at any time on the day of the test is academic misconduct.

If any student is unsure what qualifies as academic misconduct, he/she is always welcome to talk to the CS 2420 instructor. *There is absolutely no penalty for asking about a particular action, even if it is academic misconduct, so long as the student seeks clarification before acting.*

## 2. Sanction for academic misconduct and appeals process

*For academic misconduct in CS 2420, the sanction is failing the course.*

Upon discovering the misconduct, the instructor will discuss the infraction with the student within 20 days. Within the next 10 days the instructor will give written notice to the student describing the sanction and advising him/her of his/her right to appeal. The instructor will also notify the Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs of the infraction and the sanction, forwarding a copy to the Director of the School of Computing. Finally, a letter describing the infraction will be placed in the student's permanent School of Computing academic record.

As described in the College of Engineering Academic Appeals and Misconduct Policy<sup>2</sup>, the student has the right to appeal any academic action he/she feels is arbitrary and capricious.

## 3. School of Computing Policy on Academic Misconduct

In summary, the School of Computing (SoC) Policy on Academic Misconduct states,

Any student who receives two failing grade sanctions in CS courses due to academic misconduct will be subsequently barred from registering for any additional CS courses. Any student pursuing any SoC degree who receives two such sanctions will be immediately dropped from their respective degree program and will not be admitted to any future SoC program. Note that a failing grade sanction still applies even for students who withdraw from the course after the sanction is imposed.

Every student enrolled in a CS course must read the entire SoC Policy on Academic Misconduct<sup>3</sup> and acknowledge that he/she has read the policy and understands the penalties involved<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.coe.utah.edu/current-undergrad/appeal.php>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.cs.utah.edu/undergraduate/resources/cheating\\_policy.pdf](http://www.cs.utah.edu/undergraduate/resources/cheating_policy.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.cs.utah.edu/undergraduate/resources/SoC\\_ack\\_form.pdf](http://www.cs.utah.edu/undergraduate/resources/SoC_ack_form.pdf)

