



Cheating

Don't Do It!



Plagiarism

Honesty is always the best policy

The reputation of this university and its degrees depends on academic honesty. It is for this reason the Faculty of Science has a zero tolerance policy when it comes to academic misconduct.

Every year significant numbers of students are found guilty of academic misconduct in a variety of Science courses. Some stressed students make serious errors in judgment and such errors can and often do have very significant consequences. Students who contravene the Code of Student Behaviour are often under the false impression that leniency will be a standard response to first offenses and that they won't have to face any real consequences for their actions. The Faculty of Science wants all students to understand that we take academic integrity very seriously and that harsh penalties will apply when students contravene the Code. All students enter University with the understanding that cheating is unacceptable behaviour and, irrespective of stage of program, should therefore expect to receive an **automatic disciplinary failing grade (F8) for cheating**. This sanction may or may not be accompanied by **suspension or expulsion**. In the case of **plagiarism**, students should expect sanctions that range from a **zero on the assignment all the way to an F8 (with or without suspension or expulsion)**, depending on the degree of plagiarism and case particulars.

There are no excuses! Here are some **ethical choices**:

- 1) Don't procrastinate: practice good time management and start assignments early.
- 2) Take a reduced grade, even a zero; these are better than an F8 and a suspension.
- 3) Talk to your Professor if you run into difficulty.
- 4) Reduce your course load to what *you* can manage.

The Consequences are serious!

- You will have a disciplinary record denoted on your transcript for a period of 2 years.
- Your **GPA is lowered** substantially if you receive an F8. This grade is averaged into your GPA and may lead to your being **required to withdraw** if your GPA falls below Satisfactory Standing (2.0).
- You might **lose your scholarship or admission** (or future chances of admission) into other programs such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Business, Education or Graduate Studies.
- Suspension can **set back or prevent graduation**.
- **Resentment of your fellow students** – honest students don't want to see their grades diminished by those who cheat on exams and plagiarize written work.

The **Code of Student Behaviour** appears in Appendix A of the Calendar and can be accessed online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/>

Here are some examples of academic offences:

Plagiarism:

- Using any text/words, phrases, ideas or images from books (including encyclopedias), articles—including the **internet**—without proper citation.
- **Paraphrasing** without providing proper documentation also constitutes plagiarism. **ASK**, if you're in doubt!
- Copying (in whole or in part) essays, text, answers, assignments or lab reports from another student or any other source (even if you cite the source).
- Submitting an essay, assignment or report that was (in whole or in part) submitted in another course.

Cheating:

- Use or possession of unauthorized materials (notes, textbook, cheat-sheet, iPhone) during an exam.
- Copying or simply looking at another student's answers during an exam **or** allowing another student to see your answers during an exam.
- Unacceptable levels of external compositional or editorial assistance by a paid or unpaid tutor. If you are unsure of what would be acceptable, **ASK!**

Misrepresentation of Facts:

- Making up data, sources or page numbers for reports, assignments or essays.
- Changing answers on a corrected exam and re-submitting it for a mark increase.
- Making false statements to any member of the university community.

Please familiarize yourself with the following web resources:

Truth in Education

<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE/>

Student OmbudService

<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/OmbudService/>

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