



# Don't Do It!



## 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 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 offences and that they won't have to face any real consequences for their actions. The Faculty of Science takes academic integrity very seriously and students should know that harsh penalties will apply when students contravene the Code. As well, students whose actions cause harm to other students (for example, to personal reputation) should expect more severe penalties.

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 the seniority of the student. It is therefore critical that you understand your professors' expectations. **Ignorance is not an acceptable defense.**

**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 (disciplinary failing grade) and a suspension.
- 3) Talk to your professor if you run into difficulty.
- 4) Reduce your course load to what *you* can manage.
- 5) Do not share your work and help your friends to cheat.

## The Consequences are serious!

- You may 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 may impact your GPA and lead to your being **required to withdraw**, without the right to appeal, if your GPA falls below Satisfactory Standing (2.0).
- You might **lose your scholarship or be denied admission** (or risk future chances of admission) into another program (for example, 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.

## 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** incorrectly or without proper citation.
- 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). Copy and paste is easy to do, but it is wrong.
- 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, etc.) 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.

## Misrepresentation of Facts:

- Making up data or sources for reports, assignments or essays.
- Changing answers on a corrected exam and re-submitting it for a mark increase.
- Making false statements (for instance regarding the reason for a deferred exam request) to any member of the university community.

## Participation in an Offence:

- Aiding another student in their violation of the Code (for example by sharing through any means your partial or completed assignment/lab report so they can copy). By this act, not only are you committing a punishable academic offence but you also jeopardize the academic integrity of the other student by "helping" him/her to plagiarize and/or cheat.

Please familiarize yourself with the following web resources:

### Code of Student Behaviour

<http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>

### Student Conduct and Accountability

<http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/>

### Office of the Student Ombuds

<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>

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