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.\(^1\) 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/ECE 3810, students are encouraged to discuss high-level strategies for solving assignments with fellow classmates, but each student is responsible for writing his/her own answer.

**Academic misconduct is not:**

- Communicating with classmates about assignments orally, in a spoken language like English.
- Discussing the course material with others, so that they and you may understand it better.
- Helping a classmate learn how to use the class tools and software.
- Incorporating a block of source code that you find online or elsewhere into your own code, provided that the block is not itself a solution to the assignment and that you provide an appropriate citation.
- Using the web and other resources for instruction beyond lecture/lab, for references, and for solutions to technical difficulties, but not for outright solutions to assignments.
- Sharing diagrams or pseudocode to assist classmates in solving assignments, but not actual source code.
- Working with a tutor, provided the tutor does not do the assignments for you.

**Academic misconduct is:**

- Asking a classmate to see his/her solution to an assignment before submitting your own.
- Viewing a classmate’s solution to an assignment and basing your own solution on it.
- Failing to provide a citation for source code or a technique that you discover outside of the course’s lectures/labs and integrate into your own work, even while respecting this policy’s other constraints.
- Giving or showing to a classmate a solution to an assignment when it is he/she, and not you, who is struggling to solve it.

\(^1\)[http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/guides/students/studentRights.html]
• Providing or making available solutions to assignments to individuals who might take this course in the future.

• Searching for or soliciting outright solutions to assignments online or elsewhere, including students who took this course in the past.

• Posting questions about assignments to any forums other than the class Discussion Forum.

• Splitting an assignment’s workload with another individual and submitting a combination of his/her work and yours.

• Looking at another individual’s work during a test or the final exam.

• Searching for, soliciting, or viewing test or final exam questions or answers prior to taking that test or final exam.

• Using resources during a test or final exam beyond those explicitly allowed in the instructions.

• Paying or offering to pay an individual for work that you may submit as (part of) your own.

• Intentionally submitting a corrupted file (including corrupted metadata).

A good rule of thumb. If you discuss an assignment with others, you must leave the discussion with nothing written or typed. This is the best way to ensure that you construct your own solution, and that the work you submit honestly represents your understanding of the course material.

Except when explicitly designated otherwise, you must complete the assignment as an individual. Assignment submissions are routinely checked by the course staff for signs of unauthorized collaboration.

If you are unsure what qualifies as academic misconduct, you are always welcome to talk to the CS/ECE 3810 instructor. There is absolutely no penalty for asking about a particular action, even if it is academic misconduct, so long as you seek clarification before acting.

Sanction for academic misconduct and appeals process

For academic misconduct in CS/ECE 3810, the sanction is to fail 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\(^2\), the student has the right to appeal any academic action he/she feels is arbitrary and capricious.

\(^2\)http://www.coe.utah.edu/appeals