Cheating: The Arch Nemesis of Integrity*

When we fail to excel with integrity, it may be called academic misconduct, an academic integrity violation, academic dishonesty or cheating.

Cheating occurs when a student attempts to get academic credit in a way that is *dishonest, disrespectful, irresponsible, untrustworthy or unfair.*

Cheating ↔ Misrepresents a student's knowledge and abilities undermines the instructor's ability to honestly and fairly assess student knowledge and abilities. Cheating undermines the school's ability to honestly and fairly certify student knowledge and abilities

Instructors have the authority to define cheating in their classes because expectations for academic conduct are tied directly to learning objectives. So, there will be different rules and expectations for every class, and maybe every assignment in the same class!

To help you out, here are some *general rules* to apply unless the instructor tells you otherwise:

- Complete all academic assignments by yourself.
- Don't use any aids during an exam.
- Acknowledge and cite source material in your papers or assignments.
- Don't alter a graded exam and submit for regrade.
- Don't copy another student's assignment, in part or in total, and submit it as your own work.
- Don't purchase help or assignment completion from anyone (buying it does not make it "yours").
- Don't copy your online quiz or assignment answers from the internet or from anyone.

If in doubt about academic integrity, always return to this *default position: produce independent work unless you are told otherwise* (or ask your instructor for guidance).

If you still have questions about what you need to avoid doing to ensure you excel with integrity, check out our FAQs (on the flipside) about what counts as cheating.

* Used with Permission from the University of California, San Diego

FAQs

Does working with others count as cheating?

Not always, but it depends. Generally speaking, you're expected to complete all of your academic work independently unless you're told otherwise by your instructor. So if you work with others on a class assignment that was intended by the instructor to be an individual assessment, the instructor may consider this an integrity violation. Always check with the instructor if you aren't sure, and acknowledge the people who helped you on an assignment.

Does copying words or ideas, or paraphrasing from the Web count as cheating?

Copying or using someone else's ideas or words without attribution is always cheating, even if you've paraphrased. If you use the Internet or any source in completing a class assignment, you must cite that source within the document and at the end in your bibliography or references. You should engage in this practice even if the instructor doesn't grade for proper citation – get in the habit!

Does using old exams to study or prepare count as cheating?

You cannot use old exams in preparing for or taking a test if it was not explicitly authorized by your instructor. If you come across some old exams for your particular course, ask your instructor if you can use them to study.

Does copying a sentence or two count as plagiarism?

If you use any other person's phrasing or actual sentences, regardless of the extent or length, cite your source. This is true for using other people's ideas too. If you're not sure, talk to your instructor, TA or writing program coordinator.

Does it count as cheating if my instructor didn't tell me I couldn't do something?

UCSD instructors won't verbalize every unauthorized behavior. As a Triton, you're expected to know some of the basics of excelling with integrity. For example:

- Cite your sources.
- Complete in-class tests and take-home tests independently.
- Complete your own homework assignments.

Citations:

"Cheating: The Arch Nemesis of Integrity." *How to Talk to a Student Suspected of Cheating*,

academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/excel-integrity/define-cheating/index.html.

"Frequently Asked Questions." *How to Talk to a Student Suspected of Cheating*,

academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/faq/index.html.