Code of Conduct

University of New Hampshire, Computer Science Department

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The University grading system is built on trust. The University trusts you to submit work which is solely your own, and the University trusts your instructor to assign grades fairly. When you break this trust and either submit work which is not entirely your own or permit others to submit your work as their own, you put the fairness of the entire grading system at risk. Therefore, **cheating in this course will not be tolerated**.

Cheating is defined as either submitting work which is not entirely your own or making it possible for another to submit your work as if it is their own. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following actions:

1. **Working with another individual in the completion of your course work**. Asking isolated, specific questions of your classmates is acceptable; working side by side with them on the same assignment is not. All work for this course is expected to be done solely by the individual who will eventually submit it as their own. Implicit exceptions include work completed with the guidance of an authorized individual, such as the instructor, a PAC consultant (when available for this course), a TA (when available for this course), or a tutor approved by the instructor. When allowed, explicit exceptions will be clearly stated in the assignment description.
2. **Submitting work that was done under the step-by-step direction of another individual**. If step-by-step demonstrations are necessary for you to learn how to do your course work, you should repeat those steps independently to create the work you eventually submit as your own. This includes work completed under the step-by-step direction of an authorized individual (see above), since it is vital that you ensure that you understand what you are doing not just how to mimic the guidance you have been given.
3. **Obtaining the work of another individual and submitting any part of it as your own**. This even includes the basic raw materials provided for an assignment. It is your responsibility to get these materials directly from the official source provided or make alternative arrangements with the instructor. **Never share files with another individual or download files or archives related to an assignment from the web**. If you obtain content or code from a resource such as a book, app, or web site, you should:

   a) **ensure that the obtained material forms a minimal percentage of your own work,**
   b) **clearly indicate the start and end of the externally obtained material, and**
   c) **clearly indicate the source of that material**.

   It also exceedingly important that you **ensure you fully understand any snippets of text or code you utilize** under these conditions. At any point, you may be asked to explain what that text means or how that code works and why you have chosen to integrate it directly (rather than learn from it and write your own). Inadequate responses to such questions could be considered an indication of cheating.
4. **Allowing another individual to copy your work, in whole or in part**. It is your responsibility to protect your work from those who may wish to copy it for their own use. **Never share files with another individual. This includes both hardcopy and digital forms of your code and both**

physical and electronic forms of distribution (such as leaving printouts unattended or posting course-related code on networked servers, except as required for course purposes).

5. **Using unauthorized notes or materials, including the paper of a fellow student or unauthorized devices, during a quiz or exam**. This would also include using a copy of the actual exam in preparing for the examination (unless that copy has been provided to you directly by the instructor as a study aid).

6. **Sharing exam-specific information with another student** when one of you has taken the exam (or quiz) and the other has not or during the administration of the exam (or quiz).

It is important to note that, at least for the purposes of this document, **resources such as Stack Overflow, ChatGPT, Copilot, and such should be considered similar to fellow students**. That is, while they can be extremely useful in furthering your own understanding of the coursework you are asked to do, **submitting the work done by, or obtained from, them in place of your own is unacceptable**. Whether the source is a fellow student or another resource, the point is that when you submit something that is not your own creation you will not have done the work (or developed the expected understanding) yourself, which is, in turn, a violation of the trust on which the grading system has been built. Therefore, unless explicitly included as part of the assigned coursework, such actions will most likely be construed as cheating.

If you forfeit the trust placed in you by taking an action which can be construed as cheating, **there is a significant chance that you will be caught**. And if you are caught cheating, **you will most likely be punished**. The precise nature of the punishment will be decided only after an investigation of the circumstances is completed. However, unless significant mitigating circumstances can be identified, **the most likely punishment will be failure from the course**. At the very least, you will receive a punishment substantially worse than a simple zero for the assignment or exam in question.

Note that when you are punished for cheating, the instructor is obligated by University policy to inform various third parties of the event. These parties may include departmental chairs, academic advisors, deans, and others. These notifications may, in turn, lead to additional consequences, such as further disciplinary action from the University.

It is also important for CS, IT, and ADS majors to note that, under departmental policy, any subsequent occurrence of cheating (meaning second and following offenses) may trigger a disciplinary review by a committee charged with determining whether the repeat offender should be allowed to continue as a major within the department. Depending upon the outcome of this review, it is entirely possible that you will be expelled from the department's programs and not allowed to continue as a major within the department.

You may be asked to explicitly agree to the following statement as part of the required coursework. If not, however, by remaining enrolled in the course beyond the add deadline established by the University you implicitly agree to the following statement:

> **Having read the above statements as they pertain to this course, I understand and accept both the definition of cheating presented above and the likelihood that I will be failed from the course if I am caught cheating in this course. I also understand that others will likely be notified of my offenses and that repeated offenses may be grounds for expulsion from the CS department's major programs.**