

## Now you Know...Academic Integrity Issues You May Not Have Discussed in Class

- ❖ Why can't I pass my personal lab manual on to a friend who is taking the same course this year?
  - *If the instructor wanted to provide an answer key for students to check their results, he/she would do so.*
  - *The recipient is gaining an academic advantage beyond what studying or further research would offer.*
  - *You benefited from actually doing the work. Your friend will benefit from the same learning experience both in the short and long run.*
  - *It is an academic offence to contribute work to a student who may then submit it as their own.*
  
- ❖ We have a long assignment that requires a lot of calculations and library research. Is it all right for my friend and I to split the work and share the answers we submit?
  - *If your instructor has indicated that independent work is required, you cannot work together or share answers.*
  - *If no instruction was given, it is best to seek clarification. In the least, be sure to go to your own space and do your own work independently; use your own words and be able to demonstrate knowledge and learning in all work submitted.*
  
- ❖ I am registered in course section B, but I actually attend section A, because I prefer the schedule. The instructor insists that I write the quiz with the section for which I registered, but I have no study partners in that group. In this situation, it makes sense to try to find out about the quiz from a section A student, right?
  - *To obtain prior knowledge about a test, without an instructor's permission (such as a tutorial) is an academic offence; you would gain an unfair advantage over others in the course section.*
  
- ❖ My classmates and I swap course notes and summaries of required reading. Is this permitted?
  - *If your instructor has not indicated that strictly individual work is required, this team approach is not prohibited. You are responsible, however, for your learning even when it is based on possibly erroneous notes obtained from others.*
  - *The perspective of others can be useful; using those notes properly would mean comparing them to your own notes and summaries.*
  
- ❖ If I tell my friend in another section of the course about the quiz, is that cheating?
  - *You both will have violated the Code: sharing unauthorized information and using unauthorized information are both offences.*
  
- ❖ I'm having trouble keeping up. If I pay someone who took this course last year to do my assignment I own that work, right? Will I be in trouble when I submit this purchased assignment?
  - *You will have submitted the work of another as your own: that is an academic offence.*
  - *You will have taken an unfair advantage over other students in the course.*
  
- ❖ I wrote an excellent paper, which I plan to revise and re-submit in a course this semester. Since it is my work in my own words, is this permitted?
  - *Re-submission of work already graded is not permitted; academic credit has already been given. New work is required unless you have obtained permission from the instructor to re-work the original paper or to redevelop the theme.*
  
- ❖ I take very good course notes. Can I sell my notes and completed assignments to next year's class?
  - *Your work is for your personal learning. You do not have a professor's permission to sell his/her course material in the form of your notes.*
  - *With the instructor's permission, some courses have Note taking Clubs (NTCs). The professor of the course must approve for his/her course notes to be part of such a Club activity.*
  - *Some professors encourage note sharing as a component of collaborative learning; this does not include selling of notes however.*
  
- ❖ What's wrong with photocopying textbooks and course packs so I can sell them at budget prices? Everybody wins, right?
  - *The resources are not yours to sell; the author, instructor and/or publisher must have their rights respected.*

- ❖ I want to audit a difficult course this year, and register for it next year. It's a big class so no one will notice. Is this a problem?
  - *Auditing is prohibited for undergraduates at this time.*
  - *You would be gaining unfair academic advantage.*
- ❖ My project advisor refuses to sign off on a journal article I have prepared for submission. Can I delete his/her name and go ahead and submit?
  - *All contributors should be acknowledged or named as co-authors depending on the extent of their contribution. Seek assistance from your Chair or Associate Dean (Student Affairs) to resolve this situation.*
  - *All authors must contribute to the work and approve the submitted paper.*
- ❖ In a particular course, everyone knows that this instructor recycles exam questions. We have collected quite a few old exams to study from. Is it an academic offence to possess these old exams?
  - *If previous exam questions are available on the exam archive website, or are known to have been returned to previous students, they are known to be available in a general sense.*
  - *If the exams were obtained another way, such as taken from the exam room without permission, or if exam questions were reconstructed and documented from memory, there may be a problem with possession. Notify the instructor if you have this type of exam questions.*

Friends have constructed an on-line chat room to share exam questions. Is it an offence to post old exams or exam questions?

- *The same principles apply as stated above. It matters how the posted questions or exams were obtained.*

Is it fair that some students have those questions and others don't? Isn't that an unfair advantage?

- *The instructor has the responsibility to equalize the testing environment through new approaches or questions.*
- *In cases of disagreement, your Associate Dean (Student Affairs) is an important resource.*

- ❖ My friend was panicking because he/she just couldn't get started on our homework essay; I emailed my work just to give him/her some ideas. Now we are both being called to an academic offence interview. I didn't do anything wrong; it's my friend that copied my work, right?
  - *The person who submitted another's work as his/her own has committed an academic offence.*
  - *Did you clearly tell your friend not to copy? Could you have given brainstorming pointers? The disciplinary officer will want to discuss your level of awareness of the potential for copying.*
- ❖ My residence friend is better in the lab than me; I do my own labs, but I tend to use my friend's results, because they're more accurate. Why is that a problem?
  - *Your instructor expects you to submit the results that you obtained; if your results are less accurate than a your friend's, talk to your lab instructor and seek assistance. It is helpful, however, that you have learned from a friend where you need extra help.*
- ❖ Some students have re-shelved or hidden library resources so classmates won't have access to them. Someone could also take a section out of a library resource.
  - *This denies fair access to academic material*
  - *This is an academic offence*
- ❖ Instead of searching for just the right article every time I research, it's easier to download the whole journal and read through them later. It's for personal use, so why is this a problem?
  - *Your will be violating the University's e-journal license and library agreements.*
  - *This is a misuse of library resources and is an academic offence under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures ([www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity)).*