

Unethical Academic Practices (aka Cheating)

Cheating is morally wrong and academically unacceptable. It will result in both academic and disciplinary consequences. (See classroom policies.) Most colleges automatically fail students who cheat and expel repeat or flagrant offenders. The following attempts to describe various types of cheating, but it is not necessarily a complete list. There is no defense in “it wasn’t on your sheet, so I didn’t know it was cheating.” A general rule to apply to academic behavior is that your achievement in both process and product should be the result of your own effort unless you specifically acknowledge otherwise.

Cheating is:

1. copying another’s answers or allowing another to copy yours
2. verbally asking for answers or giving them to someone
Note: these first two items apply to any quiz, test, homework, etc.
3. obtaining course materials before the teacher intends for you to have them
4. obtaining materials from former students of students from other sections
5. soliciting or sharing ideas on course content related to specific assignments unless allowed
6. using or providing notes or other materials (crib sheets) unless allowed by the teacher
7. plagiarism:

This is the misrepresentation of someone else’s words or ideas (particularly as your own).

Suppose you read the following passage on page 123 of the book The American Handgun by John Smith: “No matter how good a gun feels or looks, its ability to hit a target is crucial. I can’t tell you about Tucson, but I know from experience that freezing cold does not affect the Beretta 92 Centurion. I fired over 300 rounds without a problem. In the past, I have seen dirty guns disabled by Old Man Winter.”

•plagiarism — *using someone else’s words as your own*: No matter how good a gun looks or feels, its ability to hit the target is crucial.

•plagiarism — *using exact words without quotation marks*: Freezing cold weather does not affect the Beretta 92 Centurion (Smith 123).

•plagiarism — *using an idea, even if paraphrased, without citing the original thinker*: The Beretta 92 Centurion performs accurately even in cold weather.

•plagiarism — *changing an author’s meaning by editing words, even if you show that you did editing*:
“...freezing cold does...affect the Beretta 92 Centurion” (Smith 123).

“I can’t tell you about Tucson [or Flagstaff], but I know from experience that freezing cold does not affect the Beretta 92 Centurion” (Smith 123).

•plagiarism — *attributing a conclusion or judgement to an author not directly supported in the text*: Handgun expert John Smith feels that the Beretta 92 Centurion is the best choice for use in extreme temperatures (123).

•you do not need to document your own ideas, common knowledge, or familiar quotations. If in doubt about whether something should be documented, check with your teacher.

8. submitting identical work for assignments as another (or former) student even if collaborating on ideas was allowed
9. any behavior which misleads others as to the source of the work and ideas of your submission(s).