

What is Cheating? Podcast Script, by Susan Fuschetto

Introduction

What is cheating, podcast by Susan Fuschetto, Fall 2007

Gee I hate to talk about a negative subject like cheating, but my 18 years of teaching experience tells me that upfront I need to explain what is considered cheating in this class.

What is Cheating?

Obviously cheating would be taking a test for another student, or looking at another student's answers while taking a test. Where I see the biggest problem is when students are doing their homework. You need to create your assignment files from scratch, type the content, and perform the software commands yourself. The assignments in this class are what we call skills-based assignments. Meaning that you are learning a new skill and therefore you must perform the skills yourself. We remember what we do. So by performing the commands yourself you will be able to remember them. Your friends and family are not going to be there at your job interview when they test you on a software program you listed on your resume.

What's OK and What's Not OK

I know that some of you share books and computers and help each other. That is OK so long as we are clear on what is sharing and what is cheating. And the difference between helping and cheating. One student at the computer typing and doing the actual work while the other student is only reading the book is not OK. Each student needs to create their assignment file from scratch and do their own typing. If you want to work together and share a book, then I suggest you go to the computer lab and sit at two computers side by side with the book between the two of you. If you are sharing the same computer at home, then each person will have to take turns on that computer to do their own homework. Also, I suggest you create two file folders on the hard drive, one folder for each student. Then be sure to save the assignment file to the correct folder. This ensures that each student is saving their work to their own folder and won't accidentally submit the other student's file.

What is helping? Asking a student or computer lab assistant a question is OK. Doing the assignments side by side in the lab as explained earlier is OK. Helping is not giving your file to another student. Yes, students may ask you for the file, but you need to politely tell them no and that you don't want to get in trouble for cheating. Also, yes sometimes it is quicker just to give another student your file than to actually help them with their questions. But, that is still cheating. You are the one who is going to get in to trouble. So don't do it.

Signs/Clues of Cheating

The funny thing is I don't actively look for cheating. The signs of cheating are obvious. I won't bore you with all of the signs, but here are the three most common signs of cheating:

1. Students submit assignments that look identical with the same exact errors, typos, incorrect formats and fonts.
 - a. In this example students Jane Doe and John Smith submitted the same assignment with the same errors. They misspelled Payment, Pontoon Boat should be House, and the \$ and , formats are missing in the Amortization Schedule.

2. Students submit the assignment with the same file name that is unique in some way.
 - a. In this example Jane and John submitted the file with the name of HOMEWORK2. The correct filename is Braden Mortgage Loan Payment Calculator.
3. Students submit the assignment with the exact same file creation date and time down to the second. While this may be possible in a lab setting, it is highly improbable. Also, it will be impossible if you are sharing the same computer.
 - a. In this example Jane and John's file date and time are identical down to the second.

Academic Honesty/Dishonesty Policy

The academic honesty/dishonesty policy for Cerritos College can be found in the printed catalogue or online at www.cerritos.edu in a .pdf file. I expect you to read the policy. If I determine that you are cheating, then I will do one of the following actions as stated from the college's policy:

1. Review-no action.
2. An oral reprimand with emphasis on counseling toward prevention of further occurrences.
3. A requirement that work be repeated.
4. A reduction of the grade earned on the specific work in question, including the possibility of no credit for the work.
5. A reduction of the course grade as a result of item 4 above, including the possibility of a failing grade for the course.
6. Referral to the Office of Judicial Affairs for further administrative action, such as suspension or expulsion.

Wrap Up

Cheating is a serious matter. It is very time consuming for both the instructor and the student. Please save us all some time and do your own work.