Academic Honesty in the Faculty of Engineering

Faculty of Engineering

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10 August 2018
Why Academic Honesty?

- University trains intellectuals and promotes creativity, therefore **CUHK will not tolerate**
  - Plagiarism (i.e. “copying”) assignments or course works
  - Cheating and/or misbehaving in tests and exams

- What is plagiarism?
  - “an attempt to pass off the works”
    - (i.e. take some else’s work as yours)
  - e.g. creative ideas, **report, course work, writing** or **computer program** of others (or even your own previous works, i.e. self-plagiarism), as your own
General Principles

- Do not look at solutions that are not your own
- Do not share your solution with others
- Give proper acknowledgement to any help you received

- Bottom Line: Discussion of ideas are encouraged, but each student must work out their own submission and give credits where they are due
Common mistake #1 – Direct Copying

Professors and tutors perform routine spot checks

Do not copy classmate’s assignment solution or computer program lines – tell your classmate politely that copying is against CUHK regulation if such request arises

Do not copy classmate’s data
- Redo experiment or information search if necessary
- Write your own report even you take the data with your classmates unless it is a group report

Discussions between classmates are good, but direct copying of analysis is not acceptable

If a case of plagiarism is established, BOTH PARTIES (source student and copying student) will get the same penalty
Common mistake #2 – Direct Copying without quotation

A case of plagiarism on a General Education term paper: Direct copying from internet

Use quotations “…” to denote text copied from internet, then cite the source in reference list
Proper use of source materials

- Mark relevant text by **quotation marks**
  e.g. .....“To be, or not to be” [1]

- **A reference to the original source**
  e.g. An effective motion control strategy based on video image feedback [2]......

- **A bibliography, giving the list of references**
  This is usually given at the end of the article/paper, or at the end of each page.
  Example:
  [1] D. Davids, Journal of Nanotechnology, vol..., page..., year...
  [2] Y. Smith, Electronic Letters, vol..., page..., year...
  ......
Computer programming assignments

Common mistake #3 – Computer program

Direct copying

Change of variable names

Superficial changes

Slight structural changes

For loop ➔ WHILE loop

```
int findLargest(int size, int a[])
{
    int i, tmp = 0;
    for (i = 1; i < size; ++i)
        if (a[i] > a[tmp])
            tmp = i;
    return(tmp);
}
```

```
int findLargest(int size, int a[])
{
    int tmp;
    int i;
    tmp = 0;
    i = 0;
    ++i;
    while (i < size) {
        if (a[i] > a[tmp])
            tmp = i;
        ++i;
    }
    return(tmp);
}
```

```
int findLargest(int size, int a[])
{
    int j, tmp1 = 0;
    for (j = 1; j < s; ++j)
        if (b[j] > b[tmp1])
            tmp1 = j;
    return(tmp1);
}
```

```
int findLargest(int size, int a[])
{
    int tmp;
    int i;
    tmp = 0;
    i = 0;
    ++i;
    while (i < size) {
        if (a[i] > a[tmp])
            tmp = i;
        ++i;
    }
    return(tmp);
}
```
Handling of Cases in the Faculty

- Teachers and tutors will carry out checking on assignments and course works; sometimes using anti-plagiarism software such as **VeriGuide**

- Teachers/Tutors will collect evidences of suspected cases and report to **Faculty Disciplinary Committee (FDC)**
Handling of Cases in the Faculty

- FDC will interview the student(s) in question, look into case details, and decide on the penalty if the case is established.

- The penalty scheme adopted by FDC is clearly stated in Faculty Guidelines.
Handling of Plagiarism Cases in the Faculty

- Minimum penalty: **one demerit** (may be removed at graduation if no further offence committed), **zero mark for the work concerned and completion of relevant training in academic honesty**

- For severe cases, the penalty could be **a fail grade for the whole course, AND permanent demerit(s) to be recorded in transcripts**
Handling of Plagiarism Cases in the Faculty

- Repeated (e.g. second time) offenders will be given at least two demerits (at least one will be a permanent record) and a fail grade for the whole course.

- Students who have received three demerits may be asked to suspend /discontinue studies
Role of Faculty Disciplinary Committee

☐ We are not the “Judge” or “Prosecutor”

☐ We aim to ensure that students appreciate the value of academic integrity

(one of the most valuable aspects of university education)
Important Websites

Faculty Guidelines

University Guidelines