



Unauthorized Collaboration

What you need to know...

What is Collaboration?

Collaboration can take many forms. For instance, working with someone or receiving assistance from someone to help complete graded course work. It includes:

- Jointly calculating homework problems
- Working in a group on an assignment without prior permission
- Having someone help write/rewrite a paper
- Comparing answers
- Sharing sources for take-home course work

Sometimes, collaboration is allowed and other times it is not. When it is not, it is considered unauthorized collaboration.

What is unauthorized collaboration?

Unauthorized collaboration occurs when a student works with others on assignments, examinations, or projects that will be submitted for a grade without specific permission from the instructor. This applies to in-class or take-home tests, papers, labs, or homework assignments. Students are not allowed to collaborate with others without faculty authorization.

It is important to ask your professor questions if you are unclear as to whether collaboration is allowed or not. Check the syllabus or ask for instructions if you wish to work with someone. Even in group projects, the professor may require individual work. It is important to remember that each class is different, as the amount of collaboration allowed is dependent upon the professor. In general, work to be submitted for a grade should be entirely the students' own unless cited or instructed otherwise.

Why is unauthorized collaboration a violation of Academic Integrity?

Unauthorized collaboration is a violation of Academic Integrity because it allows the student to receive an unfair advantage in completing the course work compared to others who were working individually. Whether it is sharing answers or where you got your answers, having help when it is not allowed is an unfair advantage.