

Extension of Bucknell Policy for Academic Responsibility

The goal of course assignments (programs, labs, projects, oral and written assignments, and exams) is to provide a teaching moment for each student. These assignments should be approached with the idea that there is something to be learned by doing the assignment on one's own. The department strongly endorses the University's statement on Academic Responsibility found at

<http://www.bucknell.edu/x1324.xml>

The department, however, feels the following issues related to individual work in computer science need to be clarified. The list is not exhaustive and may undergo revision as new situations arise, but the items below outline key expectations regarding student work in computer science.

- Any work handed in is the work of the student(s) named on the work. We expect any work a student submits can be explained by the student at the request of the instructor.
- Integral to the process of programming is design, implementation, and debugging. There should be no question that all the implementation is the work of the individual submitting the work. Clarification of design issues may be discussed with other students, if the instructor allows such communication. Normally errors arise in all these stages of the process. After a good faith effort to resolve problems on one's own, a student should seek assistance from the TA available for help or the instructor (as most courses do not have help sessions, this may be the normal source of help). Sometimes other students can help resolve syntactic problems, but help with the logic of a solution from another student is only permissible if the instructor indicates it is allowable. Assistance means help in determining what is wrong, not implementing a solution.
- Individual work is understood not to contain any code received from another student in verbal, hand written, printed, or any electronic form of communication, unless specifically allowed by the instructor. For example, students should not put any material that relates to work to be submitted in a file that is publicly accessible. If another student accesses material on someone else's public space, both the student using the material and the student putting the material may be liable for disciplinary action. What one instructor allows does not carry over to be used with assignments from different instructors or even different assignments with the same instructor.

- Any material gained from outside the course, books, written materials from other courses, and various electronic and paper based library resources, for example, may not be used in completing a take-home exam unless explicitly permitted by the instructor. For take home exams, access to external sources dealing with the material is not allowed. It is also not allowed to share sources of information as a help for another student. Only material explicitly given in the course is normally allowed to be used.
- Using the Internet to access materials that will be incorporated into a solution or used to complete take-home exams is not allowed unless the instructor specifically indicates that it is allowable behavior. Any effort to solicit help from sources not at Bucknell or information derived from persons outside Bucknell or the results of Internet searches for information is not allowed.
- To this point the emphasis has been on how an individual is responsible for work submitted. In computer science courses material to be graded may sometimes be assigned to groups of students. Clearly, a group of students can be thought of as having the same responsibilities as an individual. For group work, however, there is a need for some additional clarification about the special responsibilities of a group. First and foremost, every member of the group should be able to explain the work submitted by the group. It is the responsibility of a group to resolve any design issues or implementation problems within the group or with the help of the instructor. Instructors may or may not allow the discussion of design issues by members of different groups. The implementation phase is to be the work of group members with no inter-group communication. Problems that need clarification or problems that are not resolved by the group should be discussed with the instructor.

If you have any questions about the use of any material or communication in any way, ask your instructor what is permissible. Any help from others or materials allowed should be clearly attributed to its source whether it be other students or emails or books or journals or websites. Guidelines for attribution of sources are given in the University's statement *Avoiding Plagiarism* that is part of the *Academic Responsibility* statement.

Issues that are not dealt with explicitly in this statement are not automatically approved behaviors.