Academic Honesty

Ronald Parr

Why Academic Dishonesty is Bad

• It’s dishonest!
  – Misrepresents your effort
  – Disrespectful of the original authors
  – Disrespectful of students who do their work honestly

• It’s a feckless and unproductive use of your time – time spent cheating is time you could be spending learning

• It wastes instructor/TA time (even if you’re not caught!)
Why Academic Dishonesty in Graduate School Shows Especially Poor Judgment

- Grades aren’t that important
- Ignoring the ethical issues, the risk/reward equation doesn’t make sense
- Unlike undergraduate education, most classes you take are on topics that are aligned with your interests and future plans
- You’re cheating yourself!

Why Academic Dishonesty in Graduate Students Sends a Chill Down the Spine of Professors

- The academic publication mechanism is strongly based upon trust
  - Reviewers might catch suspicious looking results
  - Impossible for reviewers to reproduce all experiments or search all archives to check for plagiarism
  - Authors usually enjoy an implicit assumption of honesty
- When trust is violated, editors, reviewers and readers are outraged
- Advisor-student relationships are strongly based upon trust (same as arguments for reviewers)
- A dishonest result in a paper doesn’t just bring one person down; it brings down every author
Rules of Thumb
Both for Class and Research

• If you are unsure about what is permitted ASK!

• Always look for opportunities to give credit/thanks for the ideas that have inspired you
  – Giving credit earns friends
  – Failing to give credit earns enemies