

## Academic Honesty

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### 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 – grades barely count, and the penalties are severe (small upside, huge downside)
- Unlike undergraduate education, most classes you take are on topics aligned with your interests and future plans
- **You're cheating yourself!**
- Forget any bad habits or ideas about "acceptable" cheating that you had as an undergrad. Put that part of your life in the past, and leave it there.

### What Happens if You're Caught Cheating in Class

- You will be in the center of a sh\*tstorm
- Automatic reduction of 1/3 grade for entire class per instance
- Score of zero on any assignments involved
- Undergrads: Duke honor code takes precedence
- Grads:
  - Your DGS will be contacted, the graduate school administration will be informed, and you will have a black mark on your record
  - You are likely to be put on probation (best case)
  - You may be thrown out of graduate school (worst case)
  - Your advisor (if you have one) will be contacted
  - If you have an advisor he/she may disown you
  - If you don't have an advisor, you may have trouble finding one

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

- *If you cheat in classes, why wouldn't you cheat in research?*
- 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

### Stupid Cr\*p Students Have Gotten Caught Doing Before

- Copying from another student during the exam
- Using mobile devices to search for answers during an exam
- Submitting code from the internet for a homework assignment
- Writing an entire paper out of sentence fragments taken from other papers
- Copying figures from textbooks without citing them
- Submitting answers that were found on the web
- Searching the web for "similar" problems and basing answers on the solution to these similar problems
- Submitting another student's code or proof
- Submitting answers from previous years or from similar courses taught at other universities