

## Syllabus Statements

This document includes statements on different types of academic integrity breaches that can be included on your course syllabus and/or posted onto eClass. Sharing this information with students helps raise awareness about expectations and helps dispel any misunderstandings. These statements can also act as a springboard for discussion throughout the term.

Please feel free to change the content in order to best suit the needs of your course, discipline and students. If you have any suggestions for additional statements, please contact [academicintegrity@yorku.ca](mailto:academicintegrity@yorku.ca) for assistance with development.

### Group Messaging Tools

Group messaging platforms, such as Discord or WhatsApp, can be helpful tools that connect students and support learning. However, such tools can lead to academic honesty violations when students share or use answers to homework tasks, quizzes, tests, or exams, or when students collaborate on individual assignments. According to York's [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#) these behaviours may lead to a penalty. Moderators of these groups are required to clearly communicate the group's purpose and to remind students of the expectations for academic honesty. Being a member of such a group is not a breach of academic honesty or any other university policy. However, if you witness academically dishonest behaviour, it is strongly recommended that you leave the group. If you are unsure whether the behaviour is a violation of academic honesty, check with your TA or instructor. For detailed information about expectations for academic honesty, please refer to York's [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

### Homework Help Sites

According to homework sites (such as Chegg), their services are intended to support students' understanding of course material. Despite this, cheating occurs on tests and exams when students post their test or exam questions to these sites during the assessment in order to obtain answers from one of their experts. Using the answers provided is a breach of academic honesty, according to York's [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#). If you're struggling with course material, understanding expectations, or in any other way, reach out to your instructor or TA instead of relying on homework help sites to acquire assessment answers. For authorized resources and sources of help at York, please visit: <https://www.yorku.ca/unit/vpacad/academic-integrity/student-resources/>.

## **Contract Cheating**

Contract cheating occurs when a third party completes a student's work, and the student then submits that work as their own. Third parties can include: freelance academic writers or tutors, online essay writing companies, friends, classmates, or family members. Contract cheating is a serious type of academic dishonesty that carries severe penalties. Besides penalties imposed by the university, contracting a third party to complete academic work carries the additional risks of identity theft and blackmail. If you are unsure whether a certain resource is a legitimate source of help, check with your TA or instructor. For authorized resources and sources of help at York, please visit:

<https://www.yorku.ca/unit/vpacad/academic-integrity/student-resources/>. For detailed information about expectations for academic honesty, please refer to York's [Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

## **Unauthorized Collaboration**

Unauthorized collaboration occurs when students work together on assessments without their instructor's permission. This can include working together to solve homework problems, comparing their homework, test or exam answers, collaborating to complete assignments, or having someone else write or revise an assignment. Sometimes collaborating on assessments with other students is acceptable, yet at other times, individual effort is required. This can vary by course, instructor, or assessment. Even when it comes to group assignments, individual work may be required at different stages. If you are unsure whether collaborating on assigned work is permitted or the extent of collaboration that is acceptable, review the instructions for that assessment, and/or ask your instructor or TA. Note: even if collaboration on an assessment is permitted, it is never acceptable to copy someone else's work or allow them to copy yours.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is defined as misusing another person's published or unpublished work by presenting their ideas, writing or other intellectual property as one's own without proper acknowledgement ([Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#), section 2.1.3.). There are a number of acts that are considered to be plagiarism, for example:

- copying content word-for-word from a source without proper citation;
- paraphrasing from a source without proper citation; submitting work you have already submitted for another course without the instructor's approval;
- rewording someone else's work which you submit as your own;
- having a third party complete work in whole then submitting it as one's own (also known as contract cheating).

Although plagiarism is often thought to involve words and ideas, it can also involve drawings, paintings, photographs, programming code, statistics, presentations, musical scores, among other types of content. Even if the act of plagiarism was unintentional, you can still receive a penalty. To avoid

plagiarism, keep good track of any outside sources you use, and ensure that you cite sources properly. For more help on how to avoid plagiarism, contact the [Library](#), [Writing Centre](#), or your instructor or TA.

**Content Sharing Sites (e.g. CourseHero, OneClass, StuDocU, etc.)**

For information about content sharing sites, including a syllabus statement, please refer to this page: <https://copyright.info.yorku.ca/students-reuse-of-teaching-materials-from-york-courses-2/>.