Intellectual honesty is the foundation of an academic community. As such, students are expected to abide by the student code: [http://www.weber.edu/ppm/Policies/6-22_StudentCode.html](http://www.weber.edu/ppm/Policies/6-22_StudentCode.html) Specifically, Section IV, Part D outlines the academic standards, ethics, and honesty that students are expected to maintain while pursuing their studies at Weber State University.

**ETHICAL GROUP WORK**

In many courses, you will work with others on group projects. For these types of assignments, part of your grade may be based on joint efforts, and part may be based on your own work. To avoid confusion and possible violations of academic integrity, you must clearly understand what work must be done independently and what work may be done collaboratively.

The standards for collaboration vary from course to course. Some professors permit students to work on case studies or turn in assignments together, while others allow students to discuss the cases but require them to write up their own answers. Some prohibit any collaboration at all on assignments. In a computer science course, students may be encouraged to think through various programming strategies together but are prohibited from sharing the actual code with each other.

In an ideal situation, your professor will make explicit his or her expectations for your academic work in the syllabus or in the assignment directions. If the expectations and rules are unstated or unclear to you, ask your professor.

**CHEATING, FALSIFICATION/MISREPRESENTATION**

There are many types of cheating, the penalties for which range from failing a test or assignment, to receiving an E for the class, to expulsion from the university. Here are a few examples of cheating:

- Copying homework, a test, or an assignment from another student
- Plagiarizing by downloading information or entire papers from the Internet
- Cell phone cheating by text-messaging answers to other students, taking a picture of the test and e-mailing it to another student, or downloading information from the Internet
• Getting test questions, answers, or a paper from a student in a previous period or school year
• Bringing a permitted graphing calculator into a test loaded with answer material which was previously input into the computer portion of the calculator
• Instant Messaging while completing homework to divide the work amongst several classmates

Falsification/misrepresentation is giving information that is false in some way. Incorrect citing of research sources is a common example of accidental falsification. Usually it happens by mistake or because someone’s in a hurry. Either way, it’s still considered academic dishonesty. Here are a few examples:

• You need at least one book and one article for your paper. You can’t find a book that looks good, so you make up a title and cite it in your reference list. Your instructor verifies your citations and fails you for the assignment.
• You are doing an experiment and your results don’t turn out the way you thought they would so you make up results that support the hypothesis.
• You are doing an experiment but don’t have time to get the results so you ask a classmate who did a similar experiment if you can use their results.
• You think a quote came from one source but it really came from another and you accidentally cite it wrong.
• You combine perfectly cited sources with copied text from sources that you don’t cite.
• You make up a quote by an author that sounds like it could have come from the author of a source because it better supports your thesis.
• You accidentally misinterpret the argument of a source and cite that argument as what the author said.

So, how do you avoid cheating? The simple answer is just don’t do it. The more complex answer is to try to avoid situations that make cheating seem like a good idea. Take care of yourself and don’t overcommit. Good people who cheat do so because they are tired, overworked, and stressed out. If you need help, ask for it before you get to the point where cheating seems like a good idea.

Avoiding academic dishonesty in all forms is crucial to your success and your future. Your student fees pay for a number of services to help you succeed at WSU. Take advantage of these- they are free!

The Writing Center 801.626.6463
Stewart Library Reference Desk 801.626.6415
Online Student Services 801.626.7777
Academic Support Services (Tutoring)  801.626.6870
Student Support Services  801.626.7009
Counseling & Psychological Services Center  801.626.6406
Services for Students with Disabilities  801.626.6413
Services for Multicultural Students  801.626.7330
Services for International Students  801.626.6853
Services for Women Students  801.626.6090
Non-Traditional Students & Hourly Childcare  801.626.7794