

Academic Integrity

John A. Thywissen
06 Oct 2014 • Austin

Do not confuse academic integrity with intellectual property law; they are distinct

Academic Integrity:

What do I cite?

Intellectual Property Law:

What do I need permission from the owner to use?

**Different questions!
Completely different rules**

**We're only covering
academic integrity here.**

Do not confuse academic integrity with intellectual property law; they are distinct

Academic Integrity is a set of Scholarly Norms

Expectations:

- Clearly delineate original aspects of the current work from aspects that came from other work.
- Identify source of other work, so that credit is given, and so that a reader can find the version of the source used.

This applies to both **concepts** (ideas, structure, procedures, designs, etc.) **and representations** (words, images, code, sounds, etc.).

Property Law & License Contracts are Legal Matters

- Copyright law protects all tangible works of authorship: writing, music, photos, sound recordings, visual art, computer programs, etc.
 - Protection is automatic upon creation of a work.
- Patents can protect processes, machines, manufactured items, and composition of matter.
- Trademarks protect identifiers of goods or services (words/designs).
- License agreements grant permission to use.

Your work must be your own original work or cite its source

As a member of the university, you are a scholar, so you are in the “idea business”.

Using other people’s relevant ideas and results is important in this business, but we must rigorously document the source and give credit. To fail to do so is “stealing” from your colleagues.

Every idea, word, procedure, algorithm, line of code, image, datum, result, and other creative expression under your name must either:

– Have been created by you and your coauthors independently,

OR

– Cite its source so that a reader can locate the original,

OR

– Be “common knowledge” that all of your readers will know and agree with.

Graded coursework must be your work alone, unless the instructor allows otherwise.

When the university awards your degree, the rest of the world counts on that degree as proof of your capabilities.

As a means of “quality control”, the university requires that you complete certain work and have that work graded. This grade is intended to reflect your individual capabilities, not anyone else’s.

- Therefore, you **cannot** work with anyone on any course assignment, unless the instructor specifically allows it.
- Most instructors encourage some interaction among students, but the specific extent varies by course and assignment type.

UT and its faculty impose stern sanctions

- A failing grade
- Disciplinary probation
- Withholding of grades, official transcript, and/or degree
- Required restitution
- Suspension of rights and privileges
- Denial of degree
- Suspension from the university and bar from campus
- Expulsion (permanent separation from the university) & bar from campus
- Revocation of degree or withdrawal of diploma

Our professional societies take a severe view

Respecting intellectual property rights is a foundational principle of the ACM's Codes of Ethics. Plagiarism ... is a clear violation of such ethical principles. Plagiarism can also represent a violation of copyright law, punishable by statute.

—ACM Policy and Procedures on Plagiarism

It is important for all IEEE authors to recognize that plagiarism in any form, at any level, is unacceptable and is considered a serious breach of professional conduct, with potentially severe ethical and legal consequences.

—IEEE Publication Services and Products Board
Operations Manual

Be meticulous:
Always keep track of the
origin of ideas, words, etc.
as you make your working
notes.

Be safe:
Include “acknowledgments”,
listing everyone you worked
with or were helped by.

Be fair

When I plagiarize [or collude], **I'm unfair to the writer** of the original [work] because I'm taking the credit that he/she really deserves for the words and ideas.

Excerpted from: Stappenbelt, B., Rowles, C. & May, E. (2009). Cultural influence on attitudes to plagiarism. In *Teaching and learning for global graduates*. Proceedings of the 18th Annual Teaching Learning Forum (29-30 January 2009). Perth: Curtin University of Technology.

Be fair

When I plagiarize [or collude], I'm **unfair to the university** because the educational goals of the university can never be reached if students just copy information.

Excerpted from: Stappenbelt, B., Rowles, C. & May, E. (2009). Cultural influence on attitudes to plagiarism. In *Teaching and learning for global graduates*. Proceedings of the 18th Annual Teaching Learning Forum (29-30 January 2009). Perth: Curtin University of Technology.

Be fair

When I plagiarize [or collude], **I'm unfair to myself** because I'm not being myself. Rather, I'm pretending to be [someone else].

Excerpted from: Stappenbelt, B., Rowles, C. & May, E. (2009). Cultural influence on attitudes to plagiarism. In *Teaching and learning for global graduates*. Proceedings of the 18th Annual Teaching Learning Forum (29-30 January 2009). Perth: Curtin University of Technology.

Be fair

When I plagiarize [or collude], I'm **unfair to my classmates** because most of them worked harder by writing in their own words, but I mainly copied....

Excerpted from: Stappenbelt, B., Rowles, C. & May, E. (2009). Cultural influence on attitudes to plagiarism. In *Teaching and learning for global graduates*. Proceedings of the 18th Annual Teaching Learning Forum (29-30 January 2009). Perth: Curtin University of Technology.

Be fair

When I plagiarize [or collude], **I'm unfair to myself** because I'm not learning much when I just copy another person's writing.

Excerpted from: Stappenbelt, B., Rowles, C. & May, E. (2009). Cultural influence on attitudes to plagiarism. In *Teaching and learning for global graduates*. Proceedings of the 18th Annual Teaching Learning Forum (29-30 January 2009). Perth: Curtin University of Technology.

Be fair

When I plagiarize [or collude], **I'm unfair to my [instructor]** because he/she is trying to teach me..., but I'm not cooperating.

Excerpted from: Stappenbelt, B., Rowles, C. & May, E. (2009). Cultural influence on attitudes to plagiarism. In *Teaching and learning for global graduates*. Proceedings of the 18th Annual Teaching Learning Forum (29-30 January 2009). Perth: Curtin University of Technology.

Ethical behavior benefits everyone; Lapses hurt us all

...As a community of scholars, the University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than that required simply to avoid [disciplinary action].

— "Institutional Rules on Student Services and Activities".
General Information: 2010-2011.
The Catalog of The University of Texas at Austin.

Don't "push the limits" on ethics. If you have questions, ask your instructor.

If you observe a violation, question it or report it. It is in all of our best interest to maintain academic integrity, so that a UT Austin degree is continued to be considered trustworthy and prestigious.

UT Student Judicial Services
<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>