

The following is the Honor Code for the Department of Computer Science at Loyola College in Maryland as adapted from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Honor Code Observation in Computer Science Courses.

Loyola College in Maryland
Department of Computer Science
Honor Code in Computer Science Courses

The Honor Code does not define cheating and plagiarism on exams and written assignments, but does deal directly with assignments that require the use of a computer. The material below is specifically for computer assignments. It is the student's responsibility to understand and to abide by the Code and the interpretations of the Code detailed below.

An instructor's decision as to whether to report a student for a possible violation of the Honor Code on a programming assignment depends on a variety of factors including the intent of the assignment, the ground rules specified by the instructor, and the behavior of the student. Two general guidelines will be used in making the decision.

- Program plagiarism will be suspected if an assignment that calls for individual work results in two or more programs so similar that one can be converted to another by purely mechanical transformations.
- Cheating will be suspected if a student who was to complete an assignment independently cannot explain both the intricacies of his or her solution and the techniques used to generate that solution.

If a faculty member suspects cheating, he or she will report it to both the Department Chair and the Loyola Honor Council.

We cannot provide a definition of cheating complete enough to cover all situations. The following rules, however, provide guidelines and precedents. For individual courses, the instructor elaborates on their expectations in the course syllabus.

Rules:

1. Students must provide a signed pledge on all graded work. On programs, the pledge should appear in the comments section near beginning of the program.
2. Plagiarism of any program or other assignment or any part thereof is a violation of the Honor Code.
3. Any use of any other person's program, listing, problem description, algorithm, disk, etc., is a violation, except when
 - (a) that person has granted permission,
 - (b) credit reference is given, and
 - (c) the instructor has granted permission. There are two exceptions to this rule. Material presented in class, in recitation, on the course web page, or in the course textbooks may be used in programs without permission or citation. Material presented in other courses or other textbooks may be used without permission, but the source must be cited.

4. Receiving help from another person in designing an algorithm (i.e., the logic of a program) is a violation. Providing such help is also a violation. Questions regarding algorithm design should be asked only of the instructor.
5. Showing your program to another so that he or she can copy it or see how it works is a violation. Showing your program to someone else for some other purpose is not necessarily a violation (see below), but be careful!

Examples of Cheating (not exhaustive)

1. Copying all or part of another person's program and submitting it as your own work.
2. Copying all or part of a program from the Internet and submitting it as your own work.
3. Two or more students collaboratively writing one program and each turning it in as his or her individual work (except, of course, for collaborative assignments).
4. Lending your program so that it may be copied.
5. Giving or receiving unauthorized help on how to solve a programming problem.

Examples of Legal Cooperation

1. Receiving help in locating a program bug is legal, especially after you have unsuccessfully fought with the bug for a substantial amount of time. However, too much reliance on others is unwise.
2. Giving or receiving aid regarding features of the programming language, operating system, or machine.
3. Receiving help of any kind from the instructor.
4. Discussing course material for better understanding.
5. Discussing assignments to understand what is being asked for (but not how to do it).

The penalty for any violation of the Honor Code will include a grade of zero on the assignment (for all individuals involved) and the violation will be reported in writing to both the Department Chair and the Honor Council through the Director of Academic Services and Support at Loyola.

Example of a Signed Pledge on Graded Assignments

I understand and will uphold the ideals of academic honesty as stated in the Honor Code.
(signature)

Where to Go for Help

If you have questions about how to solve a programming assignment, see your instructor. If you have questions about this Honor Code, see your instructor or consult with the Computer Science Department Chairperson.

Adopted: November 19, 2004