CS Department Academic Honesty Policy
DRAFT

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1 Academic Honesty

Given:

Learning computer science requires mastering a broad range of *skills*: programming, algorithm analysis, project management, etc.; and *tools* for applying the skills: `javac`, `gradle~/~make`, `git`, etc.

Mastering skills takes *practice*. Watching someone else ski does not prepare one for the bunny hill (let alone the Olympics). A portion of every skill is mental but at the beginning it is almost all focused practice.

Ethical computer scientists are honest, trustworthy, and respect intellectual property (see Potsdam CS Code of Conduct). This means they only take credit for their own work and properly cite inspirational or included work by others.

It follows:

You must do your own work.

- If you are going to turn the work in (or have turned in the work previously), you **must not** show it to anyone else working on the assignment.

- If someone else working on the assignment is planning to turn the work in (or turned it in previously), you **must not** look at it.

Group work must credit *exactly* those students who contributed.

- Including the names of students that did not **materially** contribute to the project is academic dishonesty.

- Failure to include the names of every one who **materially** contributed to the project is academic dishonesty.

You must cite any source you use.

- You should avoid outside sources in most introductory classes.

- If you are permitted to discuss a project with other students, be sure to cite any conversations that provided code or guidance.

- If you are permitted to search for assistance, be sure to cite sources that provide either code (functions, objects, support files) or inspiration.

Therefore:

Computer Science faculty and student assistants will look for and flag signs of copying (between students or by students from another source).

The Computer Science Department will, on occasion, run student assignments through automated plagiarism detection tools. All positive hits will be investigated by a human being before being used as grounds for bringing charges.

All assignments are subject to being kept by the Computer Science Department for the purposes of future plagiarism detection. The may be used with automated detection systems but will not be distributed beyond that; the Department makes no claim on the copyright of any student work.

Students past the introductory classes (CIS 201, CIS 203) cannot expect any **second chance**. You are expected to know what constitutes academic dishonesty in computer science and be honest; if you are in doubt, **stop** and seek clarification from your professor. Dishonesty is likely to go directly to the Office of Student Conduct as soon as it is detected.

Explanation:

You must do your own work. This is **ethically** necessary. The faculty have also found that it is **academically** necessary. Failure to do your own work short-changes your learning and, typically, the truth will out.

Using the *Solution Guide* for homework or modifying the code from your best friend might result in a single assignment done quickly. It will not help on the **next** assignment, quiz, or exam. It certainly will not help in the next **course** that relies on the material. It can also be detected and lead to failure in the assignment or course.