

## **Policy on cheating**

Cheating is viewed as a serious offence by The University of Auckland. Penalties are administered by the Discipline Committee of the Senate, and may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

### **Register of Deliberate Academic Misconduct**

Beginning in 2009, if a student deliberately cheats and receives a penalty, the case will be recorded in a University-wide Register. The record of the offence will normally remain until one year after the student graduates. The Register will help identify repeat offenders, with the risk that these students will receive more severe penalties for repeat offences.

### **What is cheating?**

Cheating, in the context of university coursework and examinations, is the act of attempting to gain an unfair advantage by violating the principle that lies behind all university work - that of intellectual and scholarly integrity.

To cheat is to be intellectually dishonest by passing off as your own, work that has been done by someone else. It is also unjust in that it devalues the grades and qualifications gained legitimately by other students.

All staff and students have a responsibility to prevent, discourage and report cheating.

### **Examples of forms of cheating**

- Copying from another student during a test or examination, whether or not there is collusion between the students involved;
- Using the work of other scholars or students when preparing coursework or writing an examination and pretending it is your own by not acknowledging where it came from. This is called plagiarism. Course coordinators, lecturers or tutors are the appropriate people with whom you should discuss how to use and acknowledge the work of others appropriately.
- Making up or fabricating data in research assignments, or the writing up of laboratory reports;
- Impersonating someone else in a test or examination, or arranging such impersonation.
- Submitting the same, or a substantially similar, assignment that you have done, for assessment in more than one course.
- Misrepresenting disability, temporary illness/injury, or exceptional circumstances beyond one's control, then claiming special conditions.
- Using material obtained from commercial essay or assignment services, including web based sources.

### **Group work**

On the whole, the University requires assessment of the work of individual students. On those rare occasions where the work of a group of students is assessed, group members need to make sure that the workload is shared equally. Course coordinators will determine their own procedures for dealing with cases where the final piece of work reflects unequal participation and effort.

**Student support: 'getting help' vs cheating**

Typically students cheat because they are having difficulty managing workloads, feel that the course content is too difficult or experience difficulties with the language of the course. None of these reasons are justification for cheating. The University provides many services to help students receive assistance, do better or to make thoughtful decisions about whether to continue. Options of people to approach for assistance include:

- The course convenor/coordinator, lecturer, tutorial leader, lab demonstrator
- Head of Department
- Faculty-level official
- Health and Counselling services
- Student Learning Centre
- AUSA or other students' associations
- Chaplaincy services

The guidelines on Conduct of Coursework and cheating are set out in full on the Teaching and Learning website at

[www.auckland.ac.nz/ua/about/teaching/plagiarism](http://www.auckland.ac.nz/ua/about/teaching/plagiarism)