

CS 32: Collaboration Policy

January 22, 2009

After reading this document, please detach the last page, fill in the appropriate information, and sign it to confirm that you have read and understand the policies listed below. Hand it in to one of the professors before 4pm June 23. The first two pages are for you to keep!

From the Brown Student Handbook: “All cases of suspected academic dishonesty in the College, Graduate or Medical School shall be referred to the Designated Representative of the Dean of the College.” Please don’t get in a situation where we have to do this; it’s a big hairy mess and no one involved enjoys having to do it.

Labs You are encouraged to collaborate during labs; they are an opportunity to learn with your fellow students. However, you should not be writing code for other students or telling other students specifically what to type in order to complete their lab. Any work you hand in must be your own.

Design You may work together in groups discussing an assignment and as much of its design as you like, but you cannot walk away with anything written. While we allow work in groups, you should still be able to explain all aspects of your individual design. Thus, we reserve the right to question you on any part of your design and you should be able to give an informed answer. When handing in a design, please list all students and any others you collaborated with. In addition to this, you should also list any other sources of information used in constructing your design (e.g. web pages, papers).

Programming It’s sometimes difficult to figure out what constitutes unfair collaboration when programming. However, we ask that you observe the following restrictions when working on all programming assignments, except your final projects. In general, we ask that you do your own problem solving when programming. Copying of code from other students, from the web, from other files, or in general is expressly prohibited. Avoid discussing coding specifics *of assignments* with other students (you’re more than welcome to discuss how to use other libraries, support code, language features, or ambiguities in the handout). You may not debug *for* fellow cs032 students, nor should you expect or ask others to debug for you. We hope this policy clarifies as many gray areas as possible; if you have further questions, speak with a professor. Also, please keep in mind that leaving any of your files that you would not otherwise be allowed to share to be world-readable on the file system is also considered a violation of the collaboration policy, since anyone can go and copy them as if you had left your solutions written on a whiteboard. In general, using “chmod og-rwx” on your files will work, but when in doubt, please consult the staff. Note that reading others files, even if they are world-readable, for the purpose of using their code is a violation of this policy.

For all group projects, (e.g. the third project and final projects), there are no restrictions on collaboration among group members. However, the same guidelines as above apply for collaboration with non-group members.

By handing in an assignment you are agreeing that all work that is handed in is yours and yours alone unless otherwise documented.

Final Project You are welcome to download and use appropriate code or libraries for your final project *as long as the size/scope of your project is taken into account*. The use of existing code is a coding practice which we support, but please consult with the staff if you intend to do so. You **MUST** attribute any outside code in your project's documentation and/or help system.

Note Collaboration with people who are not currently in CS 32 is also subject to the policies in this document.

Printing When printing your work or code to any CS department printer please observe the following guidelines:

1. Pick up your work immediately. Printouts of your work or code should never be left around for others to see. Additionally, the consultants will be trashing documents which are left unsupervised.
2. Only pick up your own printouts. You should never take printouts made by another student.
3. Only print 1 or 2 files at a time. Do not fire off many jobs at the same time, since this is both inconsiderate to other students and increases the likelihood you will lose a printout.

Violation of any of these guidelines will result in the loss of printing privileges. Flagrant violation of these guidelines may result in disciplinary actions.

Last Words In addition to being academically dishonest, copying and excessive collaboration is extremely counterproductive. As a student, your purpose for coming to Brown is to learn, and in order to understand the material presented in the course, you will have to do your own work. Please see the staff if you have any questions or problems with the content of this document.

I have read the Collaboration Policy and agree to abide by it.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

CS account: _____

(If you do not have a CS account, please write
NEED ACCOUNT on the line above.)