

1. Academic Integrity IQ Quiz

Most of the students who take Physics 2214 are headed for professional careers in engineering and the sciences. Integrity and honesty are absolutely essential, and are defining characteristics of a professional.

This quiz will test your Academic Integrity IQ, and help familiarize you with the academic integrity standards in Physics 2214.

★ **1. Please enter your last name and netid below.**

Last name

netid

2.

- * **2. A Cornell faculty member discovers that a student has committed a violation of Cornell's code of academic integrity (www.cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.htm) in a course.**

What action(s) will be taken?

- The faculty member will notify the student of the charge.
- A primary hearing will be held. The hearing will be attended by the faculty member, the student, any advisors or witnesses, and an independent observer.
- Based on evidence presented at the hearing, the faculty member will assign a grade penalty.
- If the student is found guilty, a sealed letter describing the incident will be placed in the student's academic file.
- Based on the severity of the violation, the faculty member may then bring the case before the College Academic Integrity Hearing Board, to seek a penalty in addition to the grade penalty.

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Based on evidence presented at the hearing, the faculty member will assign a grade penalty.

If the student is found guilty, a sealed letter describing the incident will be placed in the student's academic file.

Based on the severity of the violation, the faculty member may then bring the case before the College Academic Integrity Hearing Board, to seek a penalty in addition to the grade penalty.

All listed actions will be taken.

4.

*** 3. A student is found guilty of a second academic integrity violation.**

What actions may be taken?

- Ⓔ The two sealed letters in his/her academic file describing the violations will be unsealed.
- Ⓔ The student will receive an automatic grade of F in the course in which the second violation was committed.
- Ⓔ The student may be called before his/her college Hearing Board, for possible assessment of additional penalties, including a permanent academic integrity annotation on the transcript, suspension and expulsion.
- Ⓔ The student will be required to take a leave of absence.

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The student may be called before his/her college Hearing Board, for possible assessment of additional penalties, including a permanent annotation on the transcript, suspension and expulsion.

* **4. My friend and I work together on the homework. We figure out a problem together, and then we each write up our solutions on our own.**

Is this academically acceptable? If not, indicate what penalty will be assessed.

jm Acceptable.

jm Not acceptable. Primary hearing and sealed letter in file but no penalty.

jm Not acceptable. Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade lowered by one grade step (e.g., B+ to B).

jm Not acceptable. Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade lowered by one full grade (e.g., B to C).

jm Not acceptable. Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade of F.

7.

My friend and I work together on the homework. We figure out a problem together, and then we each write up our solutions on our own.

Is this academically acceptable? If not, indicate what penalty will be assessed.

Acceptable.

We expect that you will want to work together with classmates and friends in solving problems. You'll teach each other and improve your subject mastery.

- * **5. My friend and I work together on the homework. We figure out a problem together, she writes up the solution, and I copy her solution.**

Is this academically acceptable? If not, indicate what penalty will be assessed.

jm Acceptable.

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jm Not acceptable. Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade lowered by one grade step (e.g., B+ to B).

jm Not acceptable. Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade lowered by one full grade (e.g., B to C).

jm Not acceptable. Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade of F.

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My friend and I work together on the homework. We figure out a problem together, she writes up the solution, and I copy her solution.

Is this academically acceptable? If not, indicate what penalty will be assessed.

Not acceptable. Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade lowered by one grade step or one full letter grade, depending upon circumstances.

You must submit your own work, not the work of someone else. Understanding how to solve a problem and writing a clear explanation of the solution are very different things, and both generally require significant effort. You're graded on both, and you're representing that you've done both, but you haven't.

Both you and your friend will be charged with an academic integrity violation.

Suppose that you worked together on an invention with a coworker. You write up a beautiful presentation for management, explaining the invention and its broader significance to your company's bottom line. Your coworker borrows your presentation, but then presents it as his own work to management, and gets promoted. How would you feel?

Being able to explain the significance of your work is often as important as the work itself.

- * 6. It's prelim week and I don't have time to do the homework, but I really don't want to lose the points. I borrow the homework from a friend and copy his solution, changing a few symbols and numbers.

Is this academically acceptable? If not, indicate what penalty will be assessed.

jm Acceptable.

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Is this academically acceptable? If not, indicate what penalty will be assessed.

Not acceptable. Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade of F.

By submitting the homework, you're representing that you've done the work. But you haven't.

Both you and your friend will be charged with an academic integrity violation.

How would you feel if you contracted with an engineering consultant to advise you on a problem, and she gave you a report that a friend of hers had prepared for another client?

How would you feel if a less capable and dedicated colleague copied your work, presented it as his own, and got promoted?

What is pathetic about these kinds of homework violations is that the few homework points they net rarely have any effect on the student's final grade. One copied problem is worth less than 0.1% of your final grade, and the spread between grade steps (e.g., B to B+) is typically 6-8%. You'd have to copy a lot of problems to make a difference. Why risk so much for so little?

- * 7. I study from copies of homework solutions from previous semesters that I get from a friend or from an online source. I discover that one of this week's homework problems is the same as from a previous year. I copy the solution and submit it.

Is this academically acceptable? If not, indicate what penalty will be assessed

Acceptable.

Not acceptable. Primary hearing and sealed letter in file but no penalty.

Not acceptable. Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade lowered by one grade step (e.g., B+ to B).

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Not acceptable. Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade of F.

The homework assignment is to solve the problems and write up the solutions. By turning in the homework, you're asserting that you've done this work, and have developed the required understanding and skill. But you haven't.

You hire an engineer to design your new "green" home. He gives you a design that he has copied from a web site, presents it as an original design, stamped with his professional seal, and bills you accordingly. Unfortunately, if he had examined and understood the design, he would have realized that it was only suitable for southern Florida, and your house collapses under the weight of the first heavy snowfall.

14.

* **8. I just haven't had enough time to study, and I don't feel prepared to take my final exam. Or I forget to set my alarm, and sleep through the exam.**

I send my instructor an email explaining that I have a family emergency that has taken me out of town, and that I'll be back the next day to take a make-up exam.

Is this academically acceptable? If not, indicate what penalty will be assessed.

jm Acceptable.

jm Not acceptable. Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade lowered by one grade (e.g., B to C).

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jm Not acceptable. Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade of F. Proceed to hearing before college academic integrity board for possible additional penalties including a permanent annotation on the transcript, suspension and expulsion.

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Not acceptable. Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade of F. Proceed to hearing before college academic integrity board for possible additional penalties including a permanent annotation on the transcript, suspension and expulsion.

Exam time is stressful, and most students feel unprepared before they take a physics exam. Many enter the exam with great anxiety. Your misrepresentation gives you an unfair advantage over them.

If you slept through, you should immediately call and email your TA and professor, and head to the exam room (or to your professor's office if the exam has ended), and do not leave until you've found him or her. Honest mistakes do happen, and you'll be accommodated if you make your very best effort to make up for your mistake.

- * 9. I write a few equations that aren't given on the formula sheet, and a few hints, onto my sleeve, or my baseball cap, or the rims of my glasses, and use them as needed during a quiz or exam.

Is this academically acceptable? If not, indicate what penalty will be assessed.

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Not acceptable. Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade of F. Proceed to hearing before college academic integrity board for possible additional penalties including a permanent annotation on the transcript, suspension and expulsion.

The conditions under which you are to take the exam are clearly stated, and you've tried to change them - in a very deliberate and calculating way - to give yourself an unfair advantage over your classmates.

- * 10. I can't figure out how to solve that last homework problem, so I go to the piles of homework that have been turned in, find one that has the solution, and copy it.

Is this academically acceptable? If not, indicate what penalty will be assessed.

jm Acceptable.

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19.

I can't figure out how to solve that last homework problem, so I go to the piles of homework that have been turned in during lecture, find one that has the solution, and copy it.

Is this academically acceptable? If not, indicate what penalty will be assessed.

Not acceptable. Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade of F. Proceed to hearing before college board for additional penalties including permanent annotation on the transcript and expulsion.

Not only have you misrepresented your own work, but you have stolen a classmate's work and put them at risk of being accused as a collaborator.

Employees who are willing to put their coworkers at risk to protect themselves are extremely dangerous to an organization.

- * 11. After receiving my graded exam, I change one of my answers and submit the exam for a regrade.

Is this academically acceptable? If not, indicate what penalty will be assessed.

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After receiving my graded exam, I change one of my answers and submit the exam for a regrade.

Is this academically acceptable? If not, indicate what penalty will be assessed.

Not acceptable. Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade of F. Proceed to hearing before college academic integrity board for possible additional penalties including a permanent annotation on the transcript, suspension and expulsion.

*You are deliberately falsifying work, and you are claiming that the person who graded your exam made a mistake.
(During primary academic integrity hearings, some students have accused the instructor of erasing and then changing their answer!)*

You work in manufacturing quality control, and you perform measurements that show that your product is defective. On hearing of your results, the engineer running the production line generates fake data showing that the product is fine, and claims that you're incompetent.

- * 12. I'm having a tough semester, so I copy a few homework assignments and turn them. At the end of the term, I don't like all the quiz scores of zero I've received for skipping recitation, so I claim that my TA misplaced two quizzes that I have taken.

What penalty will be assessed?

jm Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade of F. Proceed to secondary hearing for suspension or expulsion.

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I'm having a tough semester, so I copy a few homework assignments and turn them. At the end of the term, I don't like all the quiz scores of zero I've received for skipping recitation, so I claim that my TA misplaced two quizzes that I have taken.

What penalty will be assessed?

Primary hearing, sealed letter in file, course grade of F. Proceed to secondary hearing for suspension or expulsion and a permanent annotation on your transcript.

Many basically honest people have temporary lapses in judgment. But people who habitually misrepresent the facts are dangerous. While they might have decent careers and serve their clients well in other fields (e.g., law), they have absolutely no place in physical-reality-based professions like engineering and physics.

Perhaps the most famous case of misrepresenting work in physics is that of Henrik Schon.

During his postdoctoral work at AT&T Bell Laboratories between 1998 and 2001, he published more than 50 papers, including five in *Nature* and seven in *Science*. The papers described a series of remarkable discoveries in organic electronic materials that many felt could earn him a Nobel Prize. Schon's work was cited as part of the annual "Breakthrough of the Year" by *Science* magazine, the most prestigious U.S. science journal.

Schon's papers galvanized the physics and materials science communities. Labs all over the world (including at Cornell, MIT and Stanford) dropped what they were doing to work on these materials.

But no one could duplicate Schon's results. A few scientists (including Cornell's Paul McEuen) eventually noticed that the published curves for completely different measurements had exactly the same bumps and wiggles. Schon had fabricated **all** of his data. He had likely been fabricating data throughout his Ph.D. work as well.

The result? Schon was fired. The reputation of his employer, the once mighty Bell Laboratories, was severely tarnished, and it soon thereafter abandoned its basic science efforts. Tens of millions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of hours were wasted by the scientific community.

13.

No matter how desperate your situation may seem, you should never violate the code of academic integrity and never make misrepresentations to your TA or your professors.

We all experience difficulties and times when it is difficult or impossible for us to meet all of our obligations or expectations. Come talk to your TA or professor for advice on how to resolve your difficulties. As future professionals, we will treat you with appropriate deference and respect.

If you have any comments on this quiz or on academic integrity at Cornell, please enter them below.

Thanks for testing your Academic Integrity IQ!