CS16 Collaboration Policy

Spring 2018

In addition to Brown University’s rules, CS16 has its own policy on student collaboration. If you have any questions about this policy, ask a TA or Seny.

Written Assignments (Homeworks)

You may (and please do!) discuss written homework problems with other students. We want you to really understand the problems, and many find that working with other students helps. In fact, we want you to understand the problems so well that you could reproduce your answers in, say, a casual conversation with your parents, so we require that you follow these rules when doing homework with other students:

- All written work must be your own. While you may discuss the solution with other students, you may not look at anyone’s written solution, copy the solution from a board, have the answer dictated to you, or be given the solution in any other form.

- You must be able to explain every aspect of your solution, and we reserve the right to ask you to explain how you arrived at your answer.

- You may not consult anyone outside of the current iteration of CS16 (including former students and TAs) about written problems.

- You are not allowed to copy solutions to the written problems from the Internet. Also, don’t put up the solutions on the Internet on publicly accessible places or on Piazza.

Programming Assignments (Projects and Homeworks)

You may discuss implementation of the programming assignments only with TAs. We require that you follow these rules when working on programming assignments:

- You are not allowed to share code or pseudocode with other students, give or receive debugging help, or copy code.

- You are not allowed to share test cases with other students.

- You are not allowed to look at anyone’s code. This includes not working together when you’re coding up the solutions or test cases. Resist the temptation to sit right next to a friend and code to avoid violating this rule. All coding work must be done independently.

- You may not consult anyone outside of CS16 (including former students) for assistance on programming assignments.

- You are not allowed to copy code from the Internet. Also, don’t put up code on the Internet on publicly accessible places or on Piazza.

- You may not decompile, tamper with, manipulate, or use the course resources (including, but not limited to, demo files and provided jar files) in ways other than those explicitly permitted via our course’s documentation. This will be considered a violation of the collaboration policy of the same severity as plagiarism.
You are allowed, however, to discuss *course material* related to the programming assignments with other students. Course material includes pseudocode found in the book or in the lecture slides. So, for example, if the slides contain pseudocode for an algorithm that you need to implement as a programming assignment, it is OK to discuss the pseudocode and running time of the algorithm, but it is not OK to discuss the translation of the pseudocode to Java or Python.

**Lecture Activities**

You are expected to complete and hand in your own in-lecture activities. That is, turning in someone else’s activity, or having someone else turn in your activity, is a collaboration policy violation for both parties involved.

**Collaboration Plan**

If you plan on working with a friend throughout the course, it is a good idea to think explicitly about how you plan on working together and setting clear boundaries. Sharing your code or pseudocode with another student is as much a violation of the collaboration policy as receiving it.

If you have any doubts about the collaboration policy make sure to ask an HTA or the professor. Ignorance or misunderstanding of the collaboration policy is not an excuse for violating it.

**Summary**

The following table summarizes discussions allowed and not allowed by the collaboration policy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CS16 Staff</th>
<th>Tutors/CS16 Students</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course material</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written HW assignments</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes (limited)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming HW assignments</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*If you violate this policy, you may be subject to disciplinary action by the University.*