

CS16 Collaboration Policy

Summer 2021

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 Doug.

Written Homeworks

You may (and please do!) discuss homework problems with other students to any level of detail, up to and including the solution. 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 homework problems.

Programming Assignments

Programming assignments include Java projects and Python homeworks. Please make sure your Github repositories are private. You may discuss implementation of the assignments only with TAs. You are not allowed to share code/pseudocode with other students, give or receive debugging help, or copy code. You are also not allowed to share test cases with other students. You may not consult anyone outside of CS16 (including former students) for assistance on projects. You are, however, allowed to discuss course material related to programming assignments with other students. For example, if the book or lecture slides have pseudocode for an algorithm that you need to implement as a programming assignment, it's ok to discuss the pseudocode and running time of the algorithm, but it isn't ok to discuss the translation of the pseudocode to Java or Python. This policy includes discussion of programming assignments with other students on Ed Discussion.

Please follow these rules when working on programming assignments:

- You may not view anyone's code in Python homework questions, or in Java projects. This includes not working together when you're coding up the problems or test cases. Resist the temptation to with a friend and code to avoid violating this rule. All coding work **must** be done independently.
- Don't copy code from the internet. Also, don't put up homework solutions or project code on the internet on publicly accessible places.
- 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.

Clinic Hours

Clinic Hours are a great resource for you to discuss problems with other students. However, you are not permitted to write up full solutions to problems on shared collaboration spaces or dictate solutions to other students. You **may not** take notes or screenshots during clinic hours. You must write up your solution independently.

Summary

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

	CS16 Staff	Tutors/CS16 Students	Others
Course Material	Yes	Yes	Yes
Homeworks	Yes	Yes (limited)	No
Exams	Yes	No	No
Programs/Code	Yes	No	No

Enforcement Policy

All of your work is checked against the work of others in the course, as well as against work from previous CS16 iterations. The tools used to do this are very sophisticated and simply renaming variables or moving code around will not fool them. *The consequences of violating the collaboration policy include NC'ing the course and/or being suspended, dismissed or expelled from Brown.*

Regret Clause

We understand that sometimes students make poor choices due to feeling overwhelmed, stressed or even pressured by their peers. Because of this, CS16 has a 24 hour regret clause: if you admit your violation of the collaboration policy to Doug within 24 hours of the assignment deadline, the violation will be handled within the CS department and may not be referred to the academic code committee.