

Computer Science 129 Course Policies, Fall 2012

Please read this document and sign below. Return it to a TA on hours or after class. You will not receive credit for any assignments until we have this on file.

Many courses at Brown allow virtually no cooperation or discussion between students. This course adopts a more liberal and honor-system-based policy that depends on the maturity of the students to know what work should be their own and what they can share with their peers. This course's policy is that you should do your own thinking, your own design, and your own coding. You're allowed to talk to other students about the content of the lectures, textbooks, and high-level concepts in general. You can answer questions from other students about supplied code and packages used for assignments, as long as the problem is a narrow one and not one that helps in the problem-solving process at large.

What is not allowed is that you let yourself be led by another student to the extent that your task becomes significantly less challenging because of your discussion with him or her. More specifically, you should do your own problem solving, program design and decomposition, and design your own data structures. In conversation with other students, be sure not to venture into design and coding specifics, and don't sit down to discuss an assignment with someone else before you've analyzed the problem in depth on your own.

The most blatant violation that can occur is code-copying and this will not be tolerated. We reserve the right to ask you to explain your program and to use all of the tools at our disposal to compare your code to that of other students and other sources (including assignments from years past and similar code found on the internet). In a similar vein, make sure that all of your coursework on the filesystem has the proper permissions so that other students cannot view and potentially copy your work. See `chmod(1)` or ask a consultant for help if you don't know how to go about this. Failure to do this can potentially be viewed as criminal negligence. We believe that this policy is explicit enough to guide your judgment and that we have not left you many gray areas. If you are ever in doubt about the legality of your actions, be sure to clear them with a TA, even if the event has occurred. When we confront a student with a suspected violation an answer of "I didn't know that this was wrong" is not likely to find much sympathy.

Again, you are expected always to approach a problem initially on your own and seriously attempt to find a solution. You are honor-bound to preserve your independence of thinking. And remember that the TAs should always be your first resource when you have a question or problem. TA hours are intended for students to use as a resource for getting help with assignments. It is expected that before coming to a TA for help you have made a significant attempt on your own to resolve your problems. In order to receive help you must have made a serious attempt to trace your bug to its source or at least isolate its occurrence to a few specific scenarios. Simply stating "I have a bug" will result in no help from your TA other than the friendly suggestion that you try to debug properly to help isolate the problem. If you think you have found a bug in any of the TA-supplied code, please isolate the bug and provide the TAs with a few explicit scenarios in which it occurs so that we can reproduce and subsequently fix the problem.

I have read and agree to abide by the above policy.

Name (please print)

Date

Signature

Login