Collaboration and Resource Policy

This document is meant to clarify a topic that can often feel ambiguous and difficult to interpret - when can I collaborate and what can I collaborate on? Refer to this sheet whenever you have questions about resources or collaborations in CSCI 204. While we have tried to make this document as clear and complete as possible, if you have any questions, please email the professor.

Warning about Public Space

**Takeaway:** Don’t put any of your work in your public space

If a file is in your public space, any student can copy it. It is possible that you could be brought up on academic misconduct charges for letting others copy your work. Go to your public space and remove anything that resembles course work. It is better to be safe than sorry. If you need to share assignments, public space has a feature which allows you to share documents with a specific list of people.

General Internet Policy

**Takeaway:** You are allowed to use the internet to gain a deeper understanding of a topic. However, this should be a conceptual understanding of the topic, and not copy-and-paste solutions.

Practically, this means that you are encouraged to look for (and share!) videos, images, or explanations that clarify the topic of your work. You are not allowed to search or, or ask about, the problem you are working on. For example, you can look up explanations and examples about recursion, but you cannot look for solutions or attempted solutions to the recursive problem in your homework (or a problem that is very close).

While it’s impossible to perfectly capture the do’s and the don’ts of internet searching, abide by the spirit of this policy - we want you to take advantage of the internet to develop a stronger conceptual understanding of the material without using it to you find the answers to your work. Remember, all sources should be cited in your work.

Warm-ups

**Takeaway:** Warm-ups are meant to be done individually with no collaboration. They are meant to solidify your own personal understanding of a topic before you get to lecture.

- **Who can I discuss this with?:** Only the professor and TAs
- **Can I collaborate on or show my write-up to anyone?:** No
- **What resources can I use?:** Only those specified by the warm-up. Cite all non-text book sources.
- **Can I share my resources?:** No.

**Example:** Fred comes to you with some great websites that help with the warm-up. You tell him that there is a ‘no collaboration’ policy with warm-ups and do not follow the links he sent.

Homework and Projects

**Takeaway:** While solutions must be worked on individually, you can discuss and collaborate with other classmates about the ideas needed to complete the work.

- **Who can I discuss this with?:** You can’t share code or writing, but you can discuss your approaches at a conceptual level with anyone in the class.
- **Can I show my write-up to anyone?:** No
• **What resources can I use?:** Only those specified by the assignment. Cite all non-text book sources.

• **Can I share my resources?:** Yes.

**Example:** You are thinking about the assignment and you talk to Fred. Fred **may not** show you his write-up, but he can say “oh I used a for loop to solve that” and explain how. The idea is to share information at a conceptual level, but to implement the write-up individually. Cite that Fred helped you. If he didn’t help with the whole thing, clarify which parts he did collaborate on.

**Collaborative Discussion (Labs)**

**Takeaway:** Labs encourage collaboration. Differing from homework and projects, you may even share your work (or code) with your classmates. However, it must be done on a temporary basis. Your own work must be completed without anyone else’s in front of you.

• **Who can I discuss this with?:** Anyone

• **Can I collaborate on or share my write-up?:** You may temporarily show your write-up to other people. Do not email it, post it on public space, or give it to anyone.

• **What resources can I use?:** Only those specified by the assignment. Cite all non-text book sources, including people.

• **Can I share my resources?:** Yes

**Example:** You are thinking about the assignment and you talk to Fred. Fred may show you his write-up if it helps. Then **stop** looking at Fred’s solution. Take notes while **not** looking at Fred’s solution. Use your notes in your write-up. Cite that Fred helped you. If he didn’t help with the whole thing, make it clear which parts he did collaborate on.