

# Honour Code for Assignments

In the Computer Engineering Department at Bilkent, we take academic integrity on home-work assignments very seriously and expect you to take it seriously too. The aim of this section is to make our expectations as clear as possible to prevent possible academic integrity violations. Students naturally want to work together and get help from others when they struggle. We believe that you learn a great deal by doing so and encourage such assistance. However, you should be careful not to violate academic integrity. In response to this, the following rules will be in force for the assignments in CS 550:

- You are allowed to discuss with your classmates in finding strategies for problem solving and debugging, but NOT in writing your codes. In other words, you may not discuss with your classmates how to solve the problem using a particular programming language (either actual code or the pseudocode). Discussion on the actual code or the pseudocode will not be tolerated.
- All the work on assignments must be done individually unless otherwise stated. You may not copy code in whole or in part from someone else. You may not share your code. You may not discuss your solution with others in detail (line-by-line, loop-by-loop, etc.).
- If you need detailed help, ask your TA or your instructor. Such detailed discussion is limited to only these people. Other than these people, you may not receive detailed help on your code from individuals or a book or the Internet unless stated otherwise. Similarly, you may not hire a tutor to get your homework done. If you just use some small hints from other sources (friends, books, websites, etc.), do not forget to cite them.
- If external assistance (from other people, Internet, books, etc.) is allowed for a particular assignment, you must indicate the source in your submission. If you make use of such assistance without giving proper credit, you may be guilty of plagiarism. It is also important to make sure that the assistance you receive consists of general advice that does not cross the boundary into having someone else write the actual code.
- You must not look at solution sets or program code from other years. It is a violation of academic integrity and it also will not help you in the long run. Whenever you seek help on an assignment, your goal should

be improving your level of understanding and not simply having your homework done.

- You may not show your code to others as a means of helping them. Sometimes, very good students provide their code (sometimes "just a peek" at their code) or detailed help to struggling students for helping them. However, such good intentions may turn into the violation of academic integrity. If you have such struggling friends, direct them to the TA or the instructor.
- You may not leave your code in publicly accessible areas. You may not share computers in any way. If you work in a public lab, delete all files related to the assignment when you leave. Do not forget to empty the recycle bin. You may not use others' storage devices (others' CDs, USBs, etc) to save your work.
- You may not leave any printouts lying around anywhere and you may not dispose them in public trash cans until your assignment has been graded.
- You must be prepared to explain the solutions to any assignment you submit. All the comments regarding program code above are also valid for any essays you write and any theoretical solutions you are asked to provide.
- You may not rely on the assumptions regarding to the points above (experience of your friends or your experience in other courses). If you have any questions, you must ask the instructor. Similarly, if any of these rules is not clear for you, ask the instructor what they mean.

In this course, we may use an automatic code comparison tool to help spot assignments that have been submitted in violation of the rules explained above. It takes all assignments from all students (and several solutions that may exist on the Internet or solutions from past years) and compares them. By making use of its results, we check similar pairs of assignments ourselves carefully and make our own judgement. *Students caught cheating on assignments will be subject to disciplinary action.* Do not forget that it is much easier to explain a poor grade to others than to explain a cheating conviction.