

Code of Academic Conduct and Integrity

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EPFL COM-301, COM-402, COM-523

This code of conduct has two objectives:

- The first objective is to establish an environment of integrity and professionalism that assures that each student is receiving appropriate recognition for their work, and everyone gets a chance to access the learning material.
- The second is to present guidelines on the responsible and ethical behaviour that students should follow regarding the knowledge and skills acquired in the course. Both inside the courses and beyond.

It is the responsibility of every student to be aware of the code's contents, abide by its provisions and also be aware of the current laws and regulations governing IT systems and privacy.

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Principles

The teaching staff are dedicated to supporting and maintaining a scholarly community in which we all share together in the common enterprise of learning. The fundamental principles for achieving this goal are:

- The respect for the integrity of the academic process
- Individual integrity and self-respect
- Respect for the freedoms and privileges of others
- Respect for university resources and the teaching staff

The following sections detail these principles as applied to different aspects of the courses, and list the possible violations of the principles.

Projects and Homeworks

Projects and graded homeworks must comply with the respective rules of the assignments, and the principles of academic integrity.

No plagiarism or other forms of cheating such as misrepresentation or falsification of data are allowed. If the assignment must be individual, students must not consult or use other students' solutions. If the assignment is done in teams, students must respect their teammates. Moreover, the students must not tamper with the work of other students, or the learning process.

The list of some possible violations of these principles follows:

1. **Plagiarism.** Representing the work of another as one's own. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to the following: copying or restating the work or ideas of another person or persons in any oral or written work (printed or electronic) without citing the appropriate source, using resources produced by other students and/or that have been saved or kept on file from earlier years, and collaborating with someone else in an academic endeavour without acknowledging their contribution. Plagiarism can consist of acts of commission—appropriating the words or ideas of another—or omission—failing to acknowledge/document/credit the source or creator of words or ideas. It also includes colluding with someone else in an academic endeavour without acknowledging their contribution, using audio or video footage that comes from another source (including work done by another student) without permission and acknowledgement of that source.
2. **Misrepresentation or falsification of data** in presentations or written reports, which includes but is not limited to: citing authors that do not exist; citing interviews that never took place, or field work that was not completed.
3. **Sharing of solutions.** Knowingly allowing another student to represent your work as their own. This includes providing a copy of your paper or laboratory report to another student without the explicit permission of the instructors.
4. **Double submissions.** Submitting the same work in more than one course without the consent of instructors.
5. **Illicit tampering.** Altering or destroying another student's work or records, altering records of any kind, removing materials from libraries or offices without consent, or in any way interfering with the work of others so as to impede their academic performance.
6. **Violation of the rules governing teamwork.** Unless the instructor of a course otherwise specifically provides instructions to the contrary, the following rules apply to teamwork:
 - a. No team member shall intentionally restrict or inhibit another team member's access to team meetings, team work-in-progress, or other team activities without the express authorization of the instructor.
 - b. All team members shall be held responsible for the content of all teamwork submitted for evaluation as if each team member had individually submitted the entire work product of their team as their own work.

Quizzes, Midterms, Final Exam

The courses use different forms of examination: quizzes, midterms, or final exams. Students must comply with the rules of each particular examination, only use their own individual answers and solutions, and not impede in any way the examination process.

The list of some possible violations of these principles follows:

1. **Cheating on an examination.** Any attempt by a student to alter his or her performance on an examination in violation of that examination's stated or commonly understood ground rules. This includes plagiarism: copying the answers of another student.
2. **Unauthorised communication** during an examination. Any unauthorised communication may be considered prima facie evidence of cheating.
3. **Forgery, alteration, or knowing misuse** of graded examinations, grade lists, or official records of documents, including but not limited to transcripts from any institution, letters of recommendation, degree certificates, or other work after submission.
4. **Theft or destruction of examination sheets** after submission.
5. **Failure to sit in a specifically assigned seat** during examinations.
6. **Stealing or otherwise discovering and/or making known to others the contents of an examination sheet** or other material that has not yet been administered.

Responsible Disclosure of Security Vulnerabilities

A security or privacy vulnerability is a defect in the course-related software that allows to cheat on assignments, reduce the availability of the system, or infer grades or any other information relating to other students of the courses without their consent. A student that discovers such a vulnerability in any piece of software that accompanies the courses must abide by the principles of **responsible disclosure**:

1. If a student discovers a vulnerability, they must inform the teaching staff in a private manner using the official email address.
2. If a student only suspects a potential vulnerability, they must ask for authorization before conducting any security testing.
3. The student that complies with these rules will be rewarded in their final grade.

The list of some possible violations of these principles follows:

1. **Failure to inform** the teaching staff of the vulnerability in a timely and private manner.
2. **Revealing of the details** or the existence of the vulnerability to other students or to the public **before it is fixed**.
3. **Unauthorized security testing** of the course-related software that results in any kind of interruptions to the learning process of other students
4. **Exploitation** of the vulnerability.

General Responsibility and Ethics

By attending the course, students are gaining knowledge and skills pushing them to a higher level of responsibility. The responsibilities of this knowledge must not only be respected and adhered to, but it is the student's imperative duty from this point forward to ensure the ethical implementation of this knowledge, never using it for malicious or illegal purposes.

The following should not replace the already existing and well-meaning ethical behavior and judgment of the student. It is merely intended to provide guidance and a moral compass in order to give the student a direction in which to proceed through difficult decision making processes.

1. Students should act legally, with honor, responsibility, and honesty as they implement the knowledge they have gained and continue to gain.
2. Students should protect the integrity of the community and advance its knowledge protecting society and its security.
3. Students should act at all times in accordance with existing laws, association values and exercising highest moral principles.
4. Students should protect and maintain an appropriate level of confidentiality, integrity and availability of sensitive information.
5. Students should avoid association with those whose practices or reputation might diminish the community.
6. Students should promote generally accepted information security current best practices and standards.

Sources and Related Codes

This code of conduct is based on existing code of conducts:

- [Boston University - Academic Conduct Code](#)
- [Brown University - The Academic Code](#)
- [George Washington University - Code of Academic Integrity](#)
- [Mile2 Code of Ethics](#)
- [Code of Ethics for Information Security Professionals Cyber Security Malaysia](#)
- [GIAC Code of Ethics](#)
- [ISSA Code of Ethics](#)