University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK)
Department of Cyber Systems
Academic Integrity Policy, Established Spring 2014

The Cyber Systems Departmental Academic Integrity Policy is consistent with and expands on the current Academic Integrity Policies of the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) as published in University Catalog and in the Student Code of Conduct in the UNK Student Handbook, Article IV: Academic Integrity. In addition, the Cyber Systems Departmental Academic Integrity Policy is consistent with and expands on the current ACM Code of Ethics, published on the ACM.org website http://www.acm.org/about/code-of-ethics, and is an adaptation (with permission) of Academic Integrity Policy from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Overview
- The UNK Cyber Systems Department adheres to high standards for academic honor and integrity. Cyber Systems Department students, teachers, and staff will neither engage in nor tolerate academic dishonesty. This standard requires all individuals to report any information regarding violations to the Cyber Systems Department Chair. The Cyber Systems Department will pursue all reported violations and appropriately deal with persons judged guilty of academic dishonesty.
- Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication or falsification of student work, plagiarism, complicity in academic dishonesty, misrepresentation to avoid academic work, and failure to properly report any information regarding academic dishonesty. Examples of academic dishonesty include copying or allowing others to copy solutions from unauthorized sources (such as other students, textbooks, or the Internet), unauthorized collaboration with others (including tutors and helpdesk staff), and accessing, modifying or deleting the files of others.
- Every student enrolled in a course, assisting someone enrolled in a course, or employed by the Cyber Systems Department is implicitly agreeing to abide by the following Statement of Compliance with Academic Integrity Policy:
  - *I have read and agree to abide by the Academic Integrity Policy of the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems. I understand that should I violate this policy, I will be subject to the consequences outlined in the policy.*

In Cyber Systems courses, students are encouraged to work together when studying for exams, discussing exercises and designing the general layout of programs/projects. Students are also encouraged to appropriately share knowledge with other students about syntax errors, coding techniques, or other language-specific information that enables a more efficient programming process. Students are required to document all sources of their work, including Internet sites, articles, the textbook, and collaboration with classmates. However, **all the assignments and programs must to be completed by the individual student submitting the work** unless a team project has been assigned. When a student submits his or her work, it tells the instructor that the submitter is the author of the entire work, except as cited from other sources.

Plagiarism and/or copying implementation details are not allowed. On a given assignment, solutions that match more closely (with any other source) than expected will be investigated as possible academic honors violations. Cyber Systems instructors may use plagiarism detection programs to check submitted code for similarities between it and other work submitted for the same assignment, as

well as code from the internet. (This software is well documented on its ability to distinguish between copied work and original work).

Plagiarism will result in a severe penalty for all students involved, ranging from a zero on the assignment, to removal from the university. (This includes both students whose work was copied and students who copied the work.) Before imposing an academic sanction the instructor will first attempt to discuss the matter with the students involved. If deemed necessary by either the instructor or the student, the situation may be brought to the attention of the student's major adviser and/or the Cyber Systems department chair. Plagiarism penalties increase in severity for each repeat offense. All offenses are recorded **as specified in the Student Code of Conduct in the UNK Student Handbook, Article IV.   Penalties may include expulsion from the University. (The entire process, including the appeals process is specified in the UNK Student Handbook.)**

Acceptable Use of Code generating Software
While use of code generating software is an important part of increasing a developer's productivity in the workplace, and the Cyber Systems Department encourages students to make the most of the many tools available; homework, labs, and quizzes in the Cyber Systems courses are designed to teach specific principles. Being able to produce the correct output using specialized software does not demonstrate that a student understands the material. It is for that reason students must get prior approval from the instructor before using any software or code libraries that results in source code being automatically generated within a source code file to be submitted.

Why should students act with academic integrity?
- *Pride in themselves*: Each student should be able to look at themselves in the mirror and see an honest, ethical person looking back.
- *Pride in their work:* Each student should be able to tell themselves that they completed their work using their own knowledge and skills, without deceiving their colleagues, their instructors, or themselves.
- *Proper skill-level development:* When a student completes work on their own, they develop an understanding of the principles being taught. Taking unethical "short cuts" undermines learning, resulting in a lower skill level than expected. This can have a snow-ball affect, resulting in the student's inability to perform key tasks as a professional in the field.
- *Pride in our profession*: By enrolling in a Cyber Systems course, students are preparing themselves to move on to subsequent courses, graduation, or employment fully prepared. If a student has "cheated" in his/her work, by taking credit for others' efforts, the student has cheated himself/herself from the preparation necessary to succeed. The main reason Cyber Systems students are in a university's Computer Science or Information Technology program is to learn the skills and work ethics to be a professional in this field. When a student cheats, the student cannot achieve the learning objective.

Why should a student care if another student acts without academic integrity?
- *Team projects depend on synergy from all team members:* Cyber Systems requires students to participate in team projects in which every team member must be able to carry their own weight. A person who is unprepared for the tasks at hand due to taking unethical short cuts to get through earlier coursework will likely pull his/her team down and make it more difficult for the team to accomplish its mission. Also, if a team member cheats on his/her portion of a project, this will reflect poorly on the entire team, rendering the entire team liable for the penalty.

- *Personal integrity/trust of your classmates:* Students rely on each other to share knowledge about syntax errors, coding techniques, or other language-specific information that enables a more efficient programming process. It's important to be able to trust that your fellow classmate is acting ethically when he/she is assisting another student.
- *The value of the degree is reduced:* Employers or graduate schools have no way to gauge the work ethic of any of the students coming from a department with a reputation for tolerating unethical or dishonest behavior resulting in them being reluctant to hire any of the department's graduates.

Why is it not okay for a student to cheat "just this once"? Students who are late for an assignment, have a busy schedule, etc. are often tempted to cheat "just this once".
- *Students are responsible for their own learning:* Assignments and exercises are given to help students learn the material. Time management is a skill that is developed at the university level by dealing with heavy assignment loads and test schedules. Cheating to avoid a missed deadline does not allow the student to develop the skills necessary to ethically maintain a professional position.
- *Slippery slope:* Cheating one time can lead to repeated cheating. It's "easier" to not do the work.

Why is it not okay for another student to "just look at your solution"?
- When you allow another student to look at your solution, you are depriving him/her of the experience of applying the principles necessary to learn problem solving. This is not helpful to them, and is a violation of professional ethics.
- If the student with whom you showed your code to is tempted to submit a copy of your solution as their own, there will be a severe penalty for you as well.

I understand that the following rules hold:

1. The computer account is only for my educational use as a Cyber Systems student. I must not misuse the account or the computer equipment.

2. I will not submit any portion of work of any other person(s) (other students, friends, textbook authors, people on the Internet, etc.) and represent it as my own work. If I incorporate ideas or code from other sources, I will cite the source appropriately and call attention to its existence. (Each instructor will describe how to cite work for their class and indicate what level of non-original work is allowed.)

3. I will not knowingly permit another person to turn in my work as his or her own work.

4. I will not copy material (code, documentation, etc.) from the work of another student.

5. I will not deliberately transform borrowed sections of code or other material in order to disguise its origin.

6. I will not collaborate with other persons on a project and fail to inform the instructor of this, except where allowed by the instructor. (Each instructor will describe what collaboration is appropriate for their class and the instructor and tutors are available for assistance.)

7. I will not obtain unauthorized examinations, answer keys, or program samples from the instructors' files, computer directories, or other sources (including online sources, friends, etc.)

8. I am aware that side-by-side coding (where each student is typing in the same code after shared discussion), is not allowed.

9. I will not use unauthorized materials during an open-book or closed-book examination, or communicate during an examination in any unauthorized way with another person (including texting and messaging).

10. I will not modify or delete another student's or an instructor's computer files.

11. I will not leave my work in an insecure area (unprotected file, computer desktop/workspace, open trash barrel, lab desk, recycle bin) where other students may easily access it. I understand that should my work be copied due to my leaving it in an insecure area, I am subject to the same penalties as the person who steals my work.

12. I will report information regarding academic dishonesty.

I have read and agree to abide by the Academic Integrity Policy of the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems. I understand that should I violate this policy, I will be subject to the consequences outlined in the policy.

Signature