Academic Integrity at MIT

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What is Academic Integrity?

• Academic integrity is part of the basic expectation of students at MIT:
  • *Students will honestly complete their own work and do their own learning.*
  • Upholds the value of a degree from MIT and fairness for all students.
  • Developing integrity and ethical decision making are part of the MIT experience.
Common Violations

- Plagiarism
- Unauthorized Collaboration
- Cheating
- Facilitating Academic Dishonesty
Common Causes of Violations

- Time constraints with other classes
- Personal stress
- Prioritization of other projects, assignments, or classes
- Lack of understanding of the material leading to aversion
- Imposter syndrome
- Feeling that there is no other choice

Source: frabz.com, “Stress cat meme”
Alternative Strategies

• Ask for Help from Instructors, Supervisors, or TAs
• Get Academic Support
• Ask for Advice
• Manage Your Time
• Take A Break

Source: memecenter.com, “cat help meme”
If You Feel You Have No Choice…

Take a step back from the situation and realize there are other options:

• Many classes have a “drop the lowest p-set” policy.
• Some professors have built-in extensions.
• You can always email the professor to ask for an extension.
• Reach out to Student Support Services (S³)
• Take a lower grade:
  • Submitting a half-done assignment or submitting nothing is better than submitting an assignment that does not reflect your integrity.
  • You may get 50% or even a 0 on the assignment, but this is better than failing the course or being subject to discipline from the Institute.
“An Ounce of Prevention…” – Avoiding Issues

• Take a reasonable class load.
• Reach out for personal help when you need it.
  • Mental Health and Counseling is free and confidential
• Reach out for academic help—even MIT professors have struggled with material.
• Be clear on expectations. What is the collaboration policy?
• Give yourself regular breaks.
• Learn how to take notes, how to speed read for content, how to study, and how to manage your time efficiently.
Next Steps

• Review the Academic Integrity Handbook: [http://integrity.mit.edu/](http://integrity.mit.edu/)

• Listen for information about Academic Integrity expectations in your subjects.

• Ask your professor for clarification at the beginning of the term.
Questions?
Welcome to MIT!