Honor Code

The Department of Computer Science takes the Honor Code seriously. Violations are easy to identify and will be dealt with promptly.

The Computer Science Honor Code can be found on our website. Since interpretation of how it might apply in individual courses might vary, we provide additional detail here.

You **are permitted** to use AI coding assistants in this class. These technologies can be wonderful learning tools when used the right way, and there is no penalty for their use as long as you follow class guidelines. If you use one, you **must submit** a `collaborators.txt` with your assignment that tells me which service you used and for which problems you used it. Failure to inform me is an honor code violation. A word of caution: do not rely heavily on these tools. You will not be able to use them during quizzes or exams.

The types of assignments given in this course are **programming assignments** (aka "labs"), **quizzes**, **midterm exams**, and a **final project**. To ensure that you know how the honor code applies, I describe some scenarios below. These scenarios are not exhaustive. A general principle is that work done is "your own work." You should have no trouble replicating work **in person** that you actually did yourself, and I reserve the right to quiz you this way. If you have any questions about how the honor code might apply in a particular circumstance, ask me.

Single-Author Programming Assignments. The successful completion of a lab assignment involves broadly two steps: program implementation and documentation. Each individual is responsible for producing their own work. Examples of permitted and prohibited activities for single-author labs are described here.

- **Program Implementation ("code").** Programs written by students should represent their own work. Students are permitted to ask other students in the class questions of clarification, language syntax, and error message interpretation, but are never permitted to view/share each others code. Students may also use any code (including complete examples) provided by course instructors.
- **Program Documentation ("comments").** Students should write descriptive comments intended to help others (e.g., graders) understand the operation of their code. Comments should describe both "what" and "how" code achieves its objectives. In general, comments should be a student's own work. One exception is that starter code may sometimes include instructor-provided documentation of "what" is wanted. It is OK to leave these comments in place, or even to alter them, without attribution.

Group Programming Assignments. For some of the labs, students will be offered the option of working with a partner. Both a partner pair and a single student working alone are referred to as a group. Members of the same group may discuss any aspect of the assignment with one another, and may even view each other's code. However, each group member must independently code up and submit their own solution. Group members are prohibited from copying source code files—each student must independently type in any code worked out with a partner.

Quizzes and Exams. All quizzes and exams are "closed-book." No resources, including AI assistants, may be accessed while taking quizzes or exams. The sole exception is that you may ask the instructor clarifying questions.

Final Project. All aspects of the final project may be developed together with your partner, if you elect to work with one. Except when stated otherwise, you may share source code files, design documents, and other materials, and you can submit all of them together in a single repository. However, all submitted work must be the original work of you and your partner.