Honesty is always the best policy

The academic community depends on academic honesty. The Faculty of Arts has a zero tolerance policy when it comes to plagiarism and cheating. In the past 3 years, despite warnings such as this handout, over 350 students were charged by the Faculty of Arts alone under the Code of Student Behaviour. A common sanction for Academic Offences is a Grade of F8 in the course and possibly a suspension of at least one term! Don’t jeopardize your academic career by cheating.

There are no excuses! Here are some ethical choices if you run into difficulty:

1) Talk to your Professor.
2) Take a reduced grade, even a zero; these are better than an F8 and a suspension.
3) Don’t procrastinate: start assignments immediately; you will normally have to juggle other assignments and cannot count on enough time if you delay.
4) Reduce your course load to what you can manage given your personal non-academic circumstances.
5) Talk to Student Counselling (2nd floor SUB).

The Consequences are serious!

• Your GPA is lowered substantially if you receive an F8 on your transcript. This grade is averaged into your GPA and may lead to your being required to withdraw if your GPA falls below Satisfactory Standing (2.0).
• You might lose your scholarship or admission (or future chances of admission) into other programs such as Graduate Studies, Law, Business, Education, or Medicine.
• Suspension can set back or prevent graduation.
• Resentment of your fellow students – honest students don’t want to see their grades diminished by those who cheat on exams and plagiarize written work.

Here are some examples of the most common academic offences reported:

Plagiarism:
• Using any text/words, phrases, ideas or images from books (including encyclopedias), articles—including the Internet—without proper citation.

• Paraphrasing without providing proper citation also constitutes plagiarism. **ASK**, if you’re in doubt!
• Copying (in whole or in part) answers, essays, assignments or lab reports from another student.
• Submitting an essay, assignment or report that was (in whole or in part) submitted in another course.

Cheating:
• Use or possession of unauthorized materials (notes, textbook, cheat-sheet, cell phone) during an exam.
• Copying or simply looking at another student’s answers during an exam or allowing another student to see your answers during an exam.
• Unacceptable levels of external compositional or editorial assistance by a paid or unpaid tutor. If you are unsure of what would be acceptable, **ASK**!

Misrepresentation of Facts:
• Making up data, sources or page numbers for reports, assignments or essays.
• Changing answers on a corrected exam and re-submitting it for a mark increase.
• Exaggerating/ faking illness to support assignment or exam extensions. Remember, deferred exams are granted for incapacitating illnesses.

Familiarize yourself with the following web resources:

Truth in Education
Code of Student Behaviour
Student OmbudService

University of Alberta
Faculty of Arts

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