Preserving Academic Integrity
Goals

- Introduce and define academic misconduct
- Equip students, through scenarios, to preserve academic integrity
University Code of Student Conduct

- Available online: http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/csc/
- Includes conduct in & out of the classroom
What is Academic Misconduct?

- Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university, or subvert the educational process.
Academic Misconduct Policy at OSU

The Code of Student Conduct defines Academic Misconduct to include:

1. violation of course rules in the syllabus.
2. providing or receiving information during quizzes or exams.
3. submitting plagiarized work (see Academic Misconduct resources online for more details).
Academic Misconduct Policy at OSU

The Code of Student Conduct defines Academic Misconduct to include:

4. falsification, fabrication, or dishonesty in reporting research results.

5. engaging in activities that *unfairly* place other students at a disadvantage.
If academic misconduct is suspected...

- All cases of suspected misconduct must be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct (CoAM).
Take a few minutes to discuss the scenario. We will then discuss the results as a class.
Things to consider...

- Where are the points of concern?
- What portions of the code of conduct are relevant to the situation? (3335-23-04 A)
- What are the possible actions?
- Who might be affected by these actions?
- What do you recommend?
Scenario 1

- Rick and Paul are working together on an individual programming assignment. What are some strategies they can use to avoid plagiarism?
Scenario 2

- Brooke and Kathy are working on individual physics homework together. Brooke asks Kathy how to do one of the problems. What should Kathy do?
Scenario 3

- Deb is performing data analysis for her lab report. Most of her data make sense, but there are a few points that seem to be written down incorrectly, throwing off the values she calculates for force. What should she do?
Team Lab Reports

- Be sure that all of your team members understand what constitutes plagiarism, that it is not acceptable, and that it can impact the entire team.

- **Every** person is responsible for **every** word in any team documents.
Final Thoughts

- Academic Misconduct often occurs when assignments, which are worth only a small portion of one’s grades, are at the risk of being late. If there are extenuating circumstances, talk to your instructor about your particular situation instead of turning to academic misconduct.
Words of Caution

- When homework assignments or lab reports are graded by a single person, it is fairly easy to detect copied assignments.

- A sanction for academic misconduct can easily result in a whole grade reduction or even failure of the course. Is it really worth it?
Statistics in FEH

- In 2011-2012, FEH sent about 10 students to CoAM

- Previous sanctions from CoAM have ranged from \(\frac{1}{2}\) letter grade reduction to course failure
Questions?

- For further reference, please review the Academic Misconduct section in the course syllabus and the additional resources online.