

MATH 561: Linear Algebra and Applications I, Fall 2026
Academic Honesty
Prof Arturo Magidin

This handout sets forth the academic honesty policies for my class. They are based on the University policies on Academic Honesty as they appear in the CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT, which can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin, available at:

<https://studentrights.louisiana.edu/student-conduct/academic-conduct-dishonesty>

An essential rule in every class in the University is that all work for which a student will receive a grade or credit be entirely their own or be properly documented to indicate sources. When a student does not follow this rule, they are dishonest and they defeat the purpose of the course and undermine the goals of the University. Cheating in any form therefore can not be tolerated; and **the responsibility rests with the student to know the acceptable methods and techniques for proper documentation of sources and to avoid cheating and/or plagiarism in all work submitted for credit, whether prepared in or out of class.**

Cheating, in the context of academic matters, is the term broadly used to describe all acts of dishonesty committed in the taking of tests or examinations and in the preparation of assignments. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, such practices as gaining help from another person or using crib notes when taking a test, relying on a calculator or other aids, if such aids have been forbidden; and preparing an assignment in consultation with another person when the instructor expects the work to be done independently. In other words, cheating occurs when a student makes use of any unauthorized aids or materials. Furthermore, any student who provides unauthorized assistance in academic work is also guilty of cheating.

Plagiarism is a specific type of cheating. It occurs when a student claims originality for the ideas or words of another person, when the student presents as a new and original idea or product anything which in fact is derived from an existing work, or when the student makes use of any work or production already created by someone else without giving credit to the source. In short, plagiarism is the use of unacknowledged materials in the preparation of assignments. The student must take care to avoid plagiarism in research or term papers, musical compositions, science reports, laboratory experiments, and theses and dissertations.

As indicated in class: students are allowed to consult with each other, with me, or other sources in the preparation of their homeworks. **However, each student is required to write up their own assignment on their own, using their own words and exhibiting their independent work based on those consultations.**

If you receive extensive help from an on-line source, you must indicate this (provide the on-line source and the date in which you received the help or retrieved the page). However, please see the next section:

ChatGPT, CLAUDE, GEMINI, AND OTHER SYNTHETIC TEXT EXTRUDERS. Note that CHATGPT and other (mis)labeled “artificial intelligence” products are *not* search engines and are *not* intelligent. LLMs and other Generative AI products (generically, “AI” here) work by trying to predict the most likely next word in light of previous words in the sentence and the given prompt, on the basis of its training data. They are not reproducing “information”, nor are they making sense (any sense that is perceived in their output is the creation of those reading that output). They are also not very good at writing proofs or solving numerical problems.

There is also growing evidence that the result of cognitive offloading (having these products do the work for you) results in atrophied abilities and lack of learning. As I note below, Mathematics is learned mostly by doing. The struggle and decisions you make along the way are at least as important as the final product. That is also why I require you to show your work in homework assignments.

Use of ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and other such products in this class is strictly prohibited, and their use is a violation of course policy. This violation will result in at least a zero grade in the assignment, even if the result is clearly labeled as the output of an AI product. Repeat offenses, may result in more severe penalties, up to and including a grade of F for the entire course.

PENALTIES. The university consider both cheating and plagiarism to be serious offenses, and so do I.

If several students turn in identical solutions to a small part of an assignment in a way that makes it evident that they are all copies of the same work, the work turned in will be graded once, and the grade distributed evenly among all students who turn in the identical work. If the portions that are copies represent a more substantial portion of the assignment, or in the case of repeated minor offenses, the penalties may be extended to the grade for the whole of the assignment, or to a zero for the entire assignment. They will be applied based on my judgement of the scale of the issue.

The minimum penalty set forth in the Code of Student Conduct is a grade of **zero** for the assignment in question. The maximum penalty is **dismissal from the University**.