

1819W MA481

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Guidelines for Appropriately Working Together

Homework assignments are individual assessments, but you are permitted to work together. The line between "working together" and academic misconduct can be difficult to understand. This page explains the course policy regarding the distinction between these two. In particular, it provides guidance on how to work together in a way that promotes individual learning.

Note: working together is prohibited on midterm exams and the [capstone project](#).

If you work with someone on a problem, you must cite the name of your collaborator(s) at the beginning of the solution. Similarly, if you use an outside resource (something other than the provided class materials), you should cite your source. These are the basic guidelines. Here are some additional tips which can help draw the distinction between collaboration and cheating:

- It is okay to *discuss* solutions with one another, but you should not be looking at someone else's work when you write up your own solution.
- It is helpful to say that you will not write down solutions in the presence of other people - instead, outline the steps and stop there.
- While it is common to write things on a whiteboard, consider instead chatting and each person taking their own notes on the conversation; that way, you are always working on your own notes and write-up.
- *Never* look at someone else's solution; instead, if you are asking them a question, talk about it together.
- Instead of asking "how did you do the problem?" ask questions about specific steps: "what was the big idea?" "what theorems did you rely on in order to simply the expectation?"
- *Do not* go looking for a solution on Google. You might find one, but that won't help you learn the process. Instead, think about what steps need to be taken. You might not remember a certain limit law, but know you need to simplify a particular series...that is when you can go searching for how a series converges (or better yet, rely on the [helpful mathematical results](#) page on the course site first).

If you are in doubt, work alone. No problem is worth jeopardizing your career at Rose or your reputation.

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