

Academic Honesty - Science Department Statement

The purpose of this document is to convey the details of academic honesty within science classes.

Quizzes and Tests

The Science Department administers tests and quizzes with the understanding that the information recorded on a student's paper reflects his/her own ideas. Exchange of information is considered to be an act of academic dishonesty. During a test or quiz the Department views offering or intentionally allowing information to be exchanged as equivalent to receiving it.

Homework

As a department we will offer very different homework assignments throughout a course. Some assignments will depend upon solid group cooperation. Other work should be done alone. Therefore, student and teacher must clearly communicate around these expectations. Students should not leave a class or begin a homework assignment if there is uncertainty surrounding a teacher's expectations. Similarly, teachers must have their expectations firmly established before making an assignment and then clearly communicate those expectations.

Lab Experiments

There will be variation from class to class regarding teachers' expectations. For the majority of the cases, students will be expected to work in lab groups. However, each member of the group is expected to share equally in the preparation for and successful completion of the actual activity.

Recording data is quite separate from actually completing the lab activity. In general, each member of a lab group will have similar data, however each person is responsible for recording their own data. For example, photocopying a data table for a lab partner is not acceptable.

For some activities, collective class data is useful for review and comparison. In this case, data charts must give credit to the person or persons responsible for collecting the data shown.

Lab Reports

Discussing questions or an analysis with a teacher or classmate helps develop better understanding. However, the actual words written in an analysis or answers to questions need to be created by the author of each lab report. One way to approach this is to allow discussions within lab groups as students take brief notes. Then, the group can break for each member to create their own text. Lab partners' names should also be included in lab reports.