

Sharing is caring? Exploring academic integrity and file-sharing behaviours

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Academic Integrity & Copyright Officer, Library Services, Assiniboine Community College



By the end of this virtual session, you will be able to . . .

Define academic file-sharing and **describe** how it works.

Explain how predatory commercial file-sharing sites can exploit or deceive students (and instructors).

Discuss how educators can support ethical sharing of learning materials amongst students.

What is academic file sharing?
How does it work?

Image credit: Microsoft, Stock image



Academic file-sharing

... the transfer and trading of lecture materials, notes, assessment tasks, answers, and responses with others, including Internet-based sites, for a fee, for free, or to barter.

Rogerson, A., & Basanta, G. (2016). Peer-to-peer file sharing and academic integrity in the Internet age. In T. Bretag (Ed.), *Handbook of academic integrity* (273-285). Springer.



thinkswap

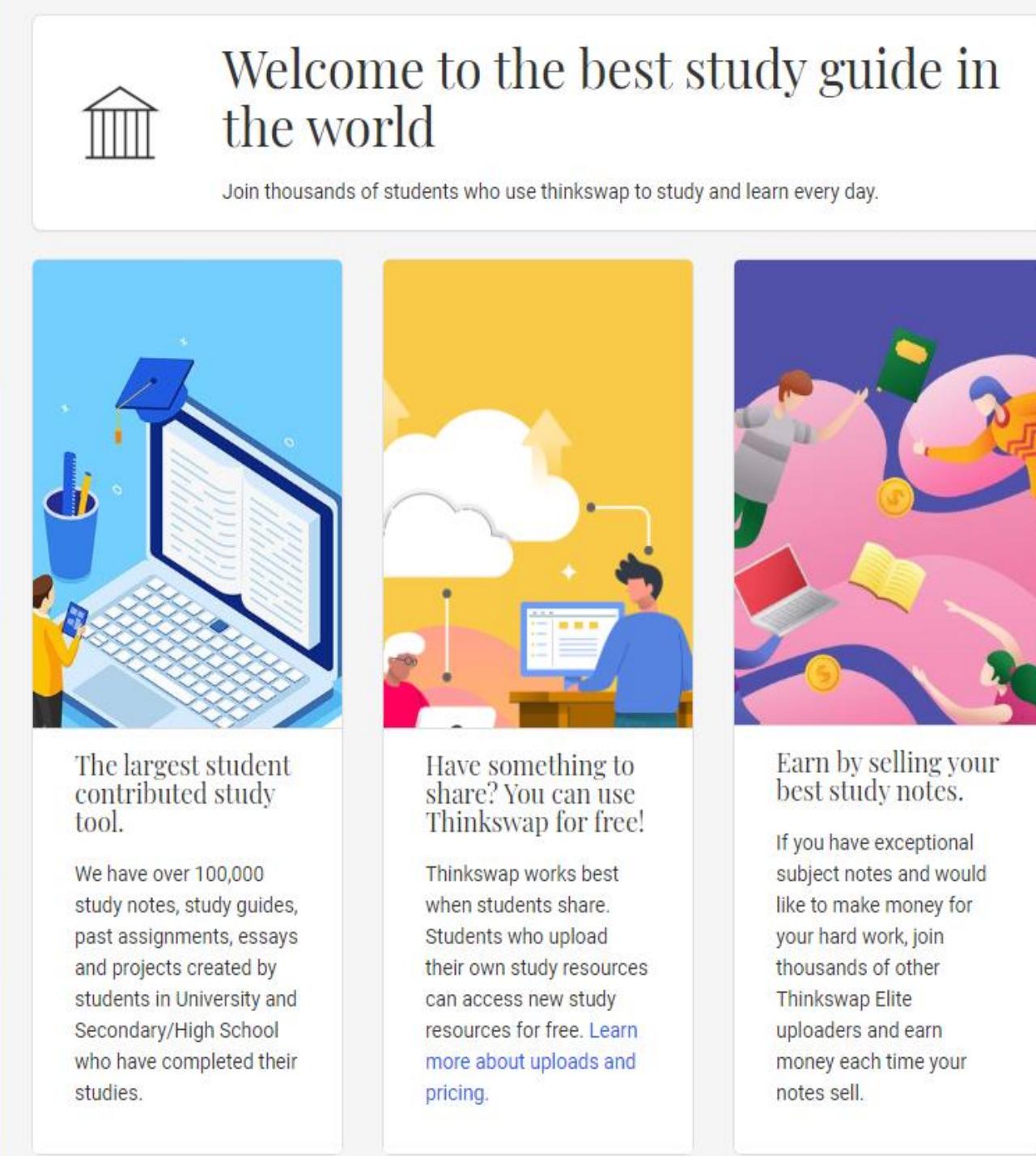
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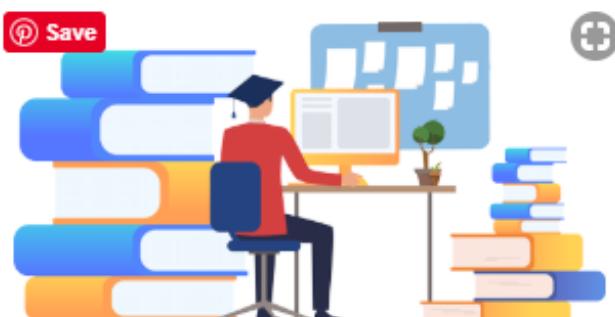
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Thinkswap. (n.d.) How Thinkswap works . © 2010-2020. Retrieved August 4, 2020, from <https://www.thinkswap.com/ca#how-it-works>. Screenshot by Stoesz, B. M.

¹ Anitsal, I., Anitsal, M.M., & Elmore, R. (2009). Academic dishonesty and intention to cheat: a model on active versus passive academic dishonesty as perceived by business students. *Academy of Educational Leadership Journal*, 13(2).

Key Questions

Should academic file-sharing be considered a form of cheating?

If deemed inappropriate, is academic file-sharing a passive or active form of academic misconduct¹?

How do your institutions' policies and procedures address academic file-sharing?

Plagiarism

**Cheating on
Quizzes, Tests, &
Exams**

**Accommodation
Under False
Pretenses**

**False or Misleading
Representation**

Personation

**Duplicate
submission**

Academic Fraud

**Inappropriate/
Unauthorized
Collaboration**

**Sabotage/Deliberately
Impeding the
Progress of Other
Students**

Collusion

Fabrication of Data

**Facilitation of
Academic
Misconduct**

Stoesz, B. M., Eaton, S. E., Miron, J., & Thacker, E. (2019). Academic integrity and contract cheating policy analysis of colleges in Ontario, Canada. *International Journal of Educational Integrity*, 15(4). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40979-019-0042-4>

Stoesz, B. M., & Eaton, S. E. (under review). Understanding the academic integrity policies of publicly funded universities in western Canada.

Sharing is caring? exploring academic integrity and file-sharing behaviours

Should academic file-sharing be considered a form of cheating?

How do predatory commercial file-sharing sites exploit and deceive students (and instructors)?

11
WAYS

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1

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Carleton University	University of Toronto
Guelph University	University of Western Ontario
Laurentian University	University of Windsor
McMaster University	Waterloo University
Queen's University	Wilfrid Laurier University
Ryerson University	York University
Trent University	

Confluence. (2010). Image of file-sharing logos. Retrieved from <https://wikispaces.psu.edu/display/IST43203/IST+432+-+Team+3+-+File+Sharing>. Screenshot by Seeland, J.

StuDocu. (n.d.). *About us*. © 2020. Retrieved August 4, 2020, from <https://www.studocu.com/en-ca/about-us>. Screenshot by Stoesz, B. M.

Course Hero. (n.d.). Assiniboine Community College. © 2020. Retrieved August 8, 2020, from <https://www.coursehero.com/search/results/713258340/c0462942f2c308bc8f/> Screenshot by Seeland, J..

CampusU. (n.d.). CampusU: Notes Marketplace. © 2018. Retrieved August 6, 2020, from <https://campusu.com/>. Screenshot by Stoesz, B.M.



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2

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Upcoming Events

Course Hero does not have any upcoming events.

Past Events

Date	Event	Location
MAR 6	SXSW EDU Higher Ed Happy Hour	Palm Door on Sabine Austin, TX, United States
DEC 6	Course Hero x Cha For Tea: Boba and Free ...	Thu 10 AM PST · 96 guests
NOV 30	Course Hero: Finals at On Tap!	OnTap Davis, CA, United States
NOV 28	Course Hero x 1951 Coffee Company Finals ...	1951 Coffee Company Berkeley, CA, United States
NOV 27	Cafe 101 x Course Hero Finals Event: Free U...	Tue 2 PM · 124 guests

Cafe
ed States

Course Hero. (n.d.). Course Hero Events on Facebook. © 2020. Retrieved August 8, 2020, from https://www.facebook.com/pg/coursehero/events/?ref=page_internal. Screenshot by Stoesz, B.M.

Course Hero Free Tapioca Drinks Giveaway. (2020). Facebook. © 2020. Retrieved Month Day, 2020, from. <https://ne-np.facebook.comevents/1910-guadalupe-st-austin-tx-78705-5607-united-states/free-tapioca-drinks-giveaway-sponsored-by-coursehero/1768721936678752/>. Screenshot by Seeland, J.

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Public - **Beto Villarreal** is the organizer

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3

Ambiguity of collaboration

“... group work, e-portfolios, wikis, and blogs are collaborative activities sanctioned by the institution, students may extend this explicit approval to other educational activities that appear to be equally legitimate”

Rogerson, A. M., & Basanta, G. (2016). Peer-to-peer file sharing and academic integrity in the internet age. In T. Bretag (Ed.), *Handbook of Academic Integrity* (pp. 273-285) Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-287-098-8_55

Quizlet. (n.d.). *University of Alberta on Quizlet*. © 2020. Retrieved August 1, 2020, from <https://quizlet.com/355187004/university-of-alberta-flash-cards/> Screenshot by Seeland, J.

Use of Social Media and Campus Ambassadors

4



Studocu. (2019, June 21). Twitter post. Retrieved August 4, 2020, from <https://twitter.com/studocu>. Screenshot by Stoesz, B. M.

CampusU. (2020, August 6). Facebook. Retrieved August 6, 2020, from URL. Screenshot by Stoesz, B. M.



5

Elude blocking filters when classified as 'online shopping'

Preventing Online Shopping for Completed Assessments: Protecting Students by Blocking Access to Contract Cheating Websites on Institutional Networks

Josh Seeland, Assiniboine Community College

Brenda M. Stoesz, University of Manitoba

Lisa Vogt, Red River College

Abstract

Contract cheating or "the outsourcing of student work to third parties" (Lancaster & Clarke, 2016, p. 639) is a type of academic misconduct that is growing and changing due to advancements in technology and the emergence of a lucrative, multi-million dollar per year industry that targets students relentlessly (Lancaster & Clarke, 2016). In an effort to protect students from engaging in contract cheating, three postsecondary institutions in Manitoba (i.e., Assiniboine Community College, Red River College, and the University of Manitoba) launched initiatives to block access to websites that offer contract cheating services from their networks. This initiative facilitated a preliminary examination of student activity on institutional networks. In any given month, a relatively large number of students (i.e., up to 3,519 unique users) were attempting to access websites identified as providing contract cheating services. We recognize that a single initiative will not eliminate academic misconduct, however, by combining various educational, protective, and preventative strategies, the likelihood that students will make ethical decisions regarding their academic work can be increased.

Seeland, J., Stoesz, B. M., & Vogt, L. (2020). Practitioner article. Preventing online shopping for completed assessments: Protecting students by blocking access to contract cheating websites on institutional networks. *Canadian Perspectives on Academic Integrity*, 3(1), 55-69.
<https://doi.org/10.11575/cpai.v3i1.70256>



6

Positioned as 'cutting edge'



As time passed, though, Johnson's view shifted. Today's students, she says, aren't like she was -- someone who got an opportunity to be educated in "the most traditional ways" (in-person, often in small classes), and had "great experiences ... that were one of the major things that shaped me."

"But I am open enough to see that the students are not in that place anymore -- that's not who they are. The world has changed," she says. "Just as I realized it wasn't realistic for me to say, 'No laptops in class anymore,' it's clear that students don't use the encyclopedia anymore. They use YouTube; they learn through sharing."

She adds, "The tools have changed; the scene has changed. If I don't embrace this new way that students are learning, I'm doing them a disservice. We educators have to change, too."

Johnson says Course Hero has helped her embrace that change. She is not only one of the 30,000 faculty participants in Course Hero's instructor portal (the "faculty club"), but she also enthusiastically attends the company's annual educator conference and has had her teaching profiled on the company's website.

Lederman, D. (2020, February 19). Course Hero woos professors, Inside Higher Ed. <https://www.insidehighered.com/digital-learning/article/2020/02/19/course-hero-oncivilized-faculty-courts-professors-its>



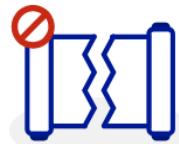
Course Hero. (2020, July 8). Course Hero Honor Code. © 2020. Retrieved August 8, 2020, from <https://www.coursehero.com/honor-code/>. Screenshot by Stoesz, B. M.

Chegg. (2020, July 8). Chegg terms of use. © 2003-2020. Retrieved August 8, 2020, from <https://www.chegg.com/termsofuse/>. Screenshot by Stoesz, B. M.

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A message to students:

As current and former students, the Chegg team understands the pressures and time constraints school creates. That being said, we also know from the unfortunate tales of our peers that the risk you take by violating your school's code of academic integrity is not worth the reward. Copying solutions or posting unexplained final answers promotes completion without comprehension, and that's something we don't support on the Services.

A message to educators:

We are always seeking opportunities to work with educators in making our Websites a valuable resource for both you and your classroom for years to come. If you need to contact us concerning an issue of academic integrity, please e-mail us at [Honor Code](#).

Positioned as
opponents of academic
cheating

Lederman, D. (2020, February 19). Course Hero woos professors, Inside Higher Ed.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/digital-learning/article/2020/02/19/course-hero-once-vilified-faculty-courts-professors-its>

Cullen, C. (2020, August 4). Help or hindrance: The tense relationship between colleges and third party tutoring services. @ 2020 ICAI. Retrieved from <https://www.academicintegrity.org/uncategorized/help-or-hindrance-the-tense-relationship-between-colleges-and-third-party-tutoring-services/>

COVID-19 and Higher Education: How Course Hero Is Supporting Students and Educators

We are taking action for students and educators during COVID-19. Learn more here.

By Course Hero
March 23, 2020

Course Hero's response to COVID-19



8

Capitalizing on the uncertainty, stress, and anxiety related to COVID

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Course Hero. (Mar 23, 2020). *CourseHero blog*. © 2020. Retrieved Aug 1, 2020, from <https://www.coursehero.com/blog/covid19-course-hero/>. Screenshot by Seeland, J.

OneClass. (Apr 1, 2020). *Back to OneClass featured blogs*. © 2020. Retrieved Aug 1, 2020, from <https://oneclass.com/blog/featured/177356-7525-of-college-students-unhappy-with-quality-of-elearning-during-covid-19.en.html>. Screenshot by Seeland, J.

Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. (2020). Contracting to cheat in higher education: how to address essay mills and contract cheating. <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/guidance/contracting-to-cheat-in-higher-education-2nd-edition.pdf>



The New Normal: How to Adapt Academic Integrity for the Hybrid Institution

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YouTube. (June 22, 2020). *The New Normal: How to Adapt Academic Integrity for the Hybrid Institution*. Retrieved Aug 1, 2020, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWlgCUGKfmQ> Screenshot by Seeland, J.

Course Hero. (n.d.). *Educators*. © 2020. Retrieved August 6, from <https://www.coursehero.com/educators/>. Screenshot by Stoesz, B.M.



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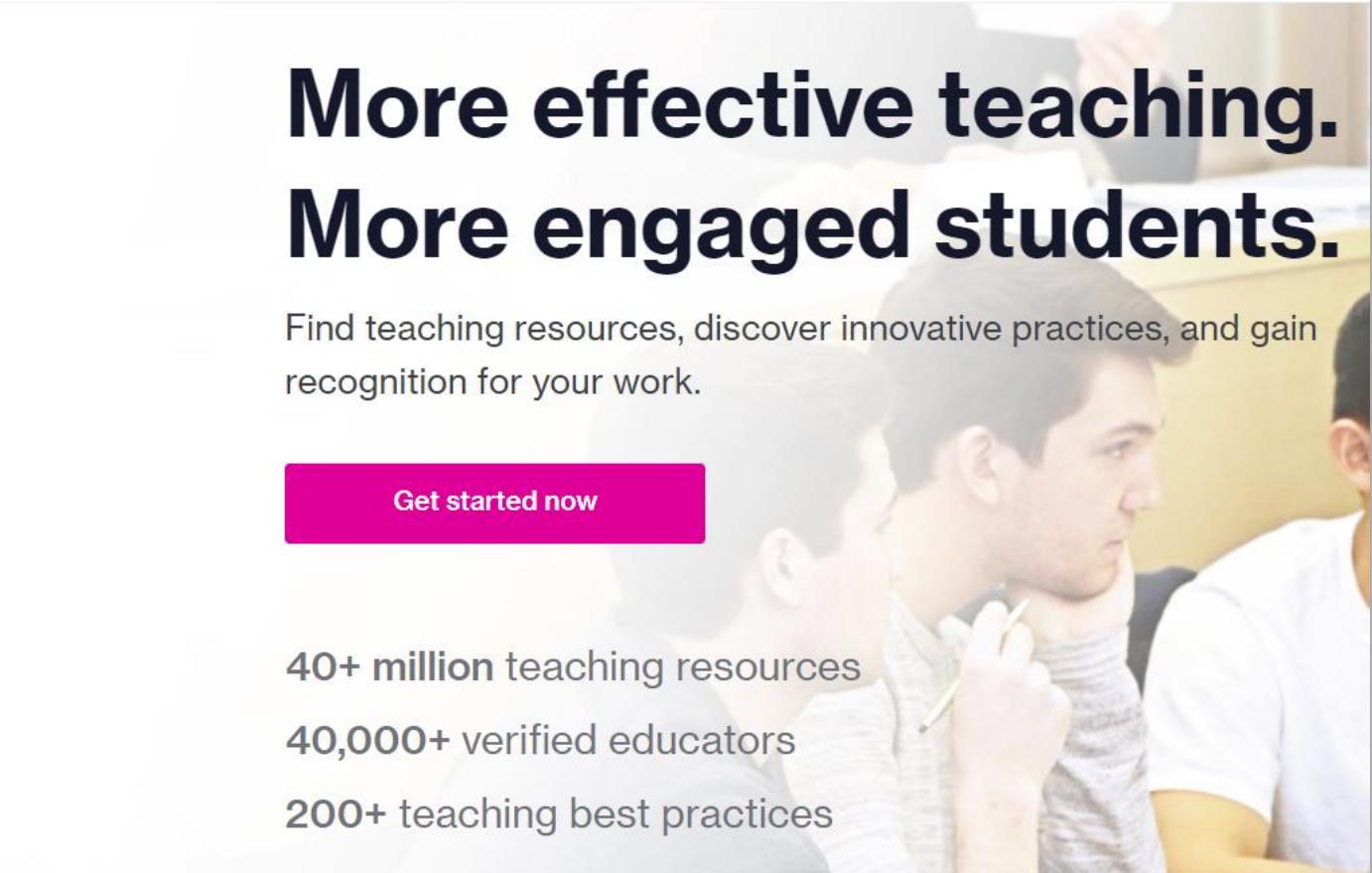
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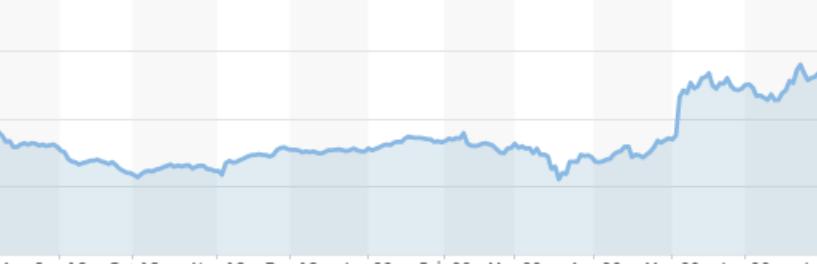
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To support educators, we are building partnerships both within and outside of our community to support online instruction:

- All college educators on Course Hero will have **complimentary access to our resource library through September 30**. To get started, [sign up](#) for a verified educator account. If you already have one, [log in](#)—100 additional unlocks have been credited to your account.
- Thanks **to generous support from a number of faculty** who have volunteered their time, we are facilitating **peer review between educators who would like feedback on their remote-teaching resources**. Visit our [online instruction support](#) page to learn more.
- We plan to launch a **COVID-19 Educator Support Fund**. If you are interested in applying for financial support, [please let us know](#). Your input will help us understand the needs to be met, and we will be in touch when the fund launches.

Ed.
hero-oncivilized-

“we [must] approach our tools and technologies always with one eyebrow raised”

Morris, S. M., & Stommel, J. (2017, June 15). A guide for resisting edtech: The case against Turnitin. *Hybrid Pedagogy*. <https://hybridpedagogy.org/resisting-edtech/>

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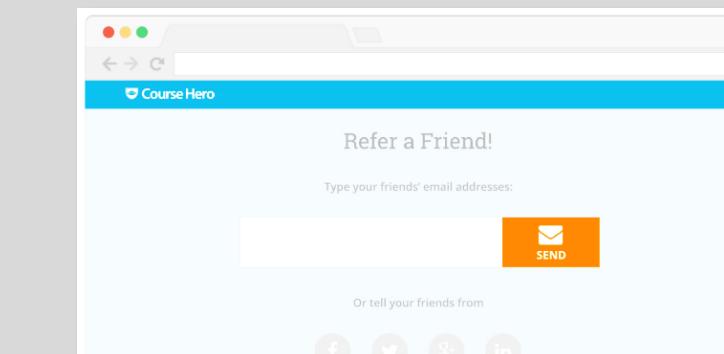
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Access your library anywhere, anytime

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Chegg. (n.d.). What is the Chegg-Verizon offer? © 2020. Screenshot by Stoesz, B. M.

Thinkswap. (n.d.) How Thinkswap works. © 2010-2020. Retrieved August 4, 2020, from <https://www.thinkswap.com/ca#how-it-works>. Screenshot by Stoesz, B. M.

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11

Marketed as homework help,
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Chegg. (n.d.). Chegg Writing. © 2003-2020. Retrieved August 6, 2020, from <https://www.chegg.com/writing/>. Screenshot by Stoesz, B.M.

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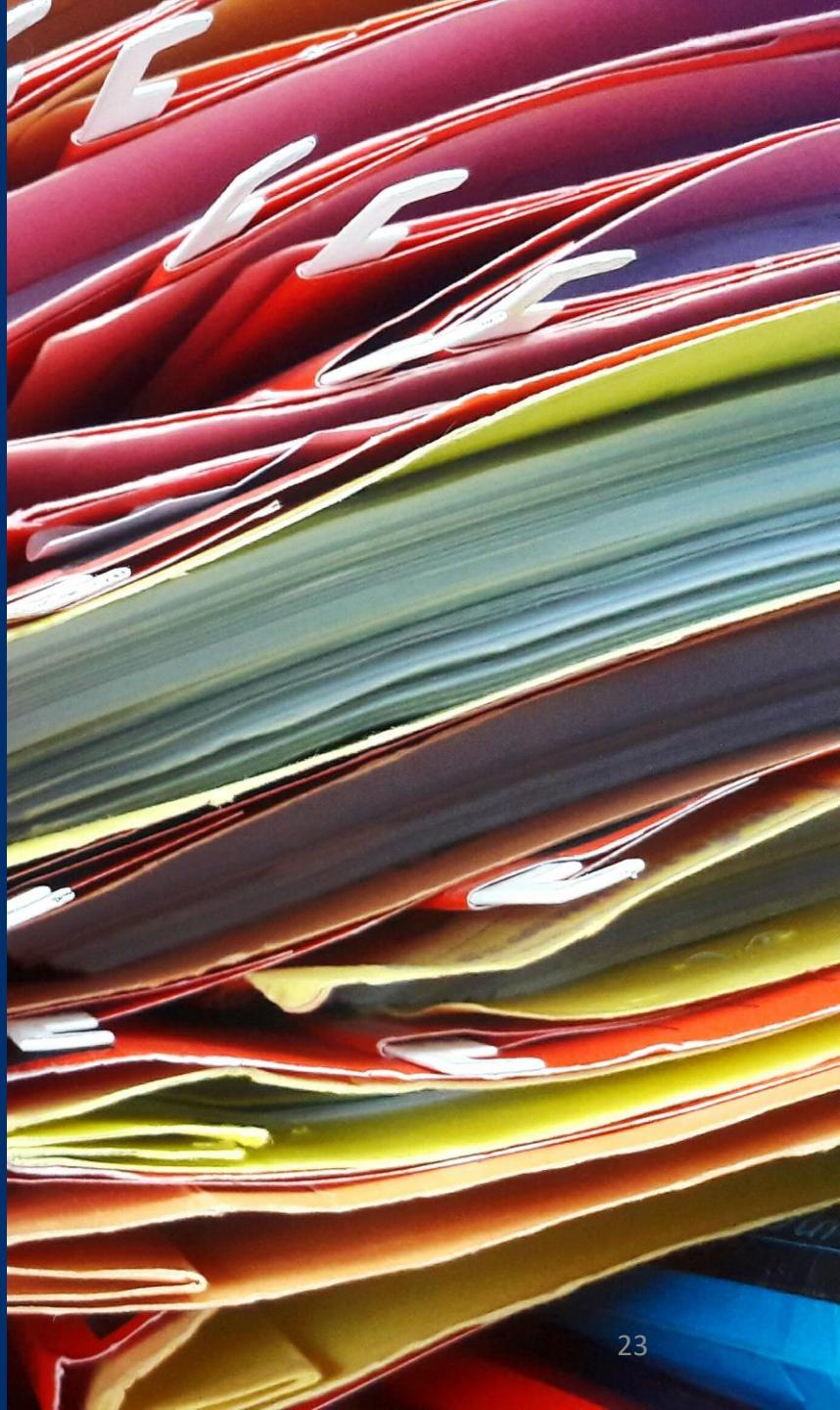
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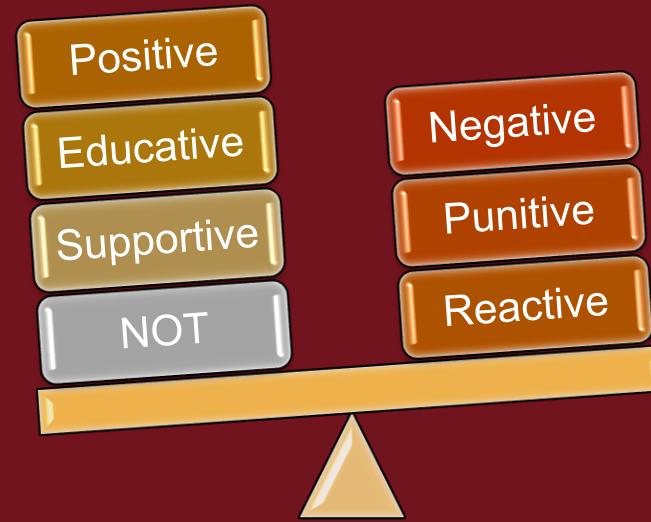
How can educators support ethical sharing of learning materials amongst students?

Image credit: Microsoft, Stock image





Whitley, B.E., & Keith-Spiegel, P. (2012). *Academic dishonesty: an educator's guide*. Psychology Press.



Bertram Gallant, T. (2008). Academic integrity in the 21st century: a teaching and learning imperative. Jossey-Bass.



Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. (2020). Contracting to cheat in higher education: How to address essay mills and contract cheating. <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/guidance/contracting-to-cheat-in-higher-education-2nd-edition.pdf>

Multi-stakeholder, multi-faceted approaches to promoting academic integrity and preventing academic misconduct

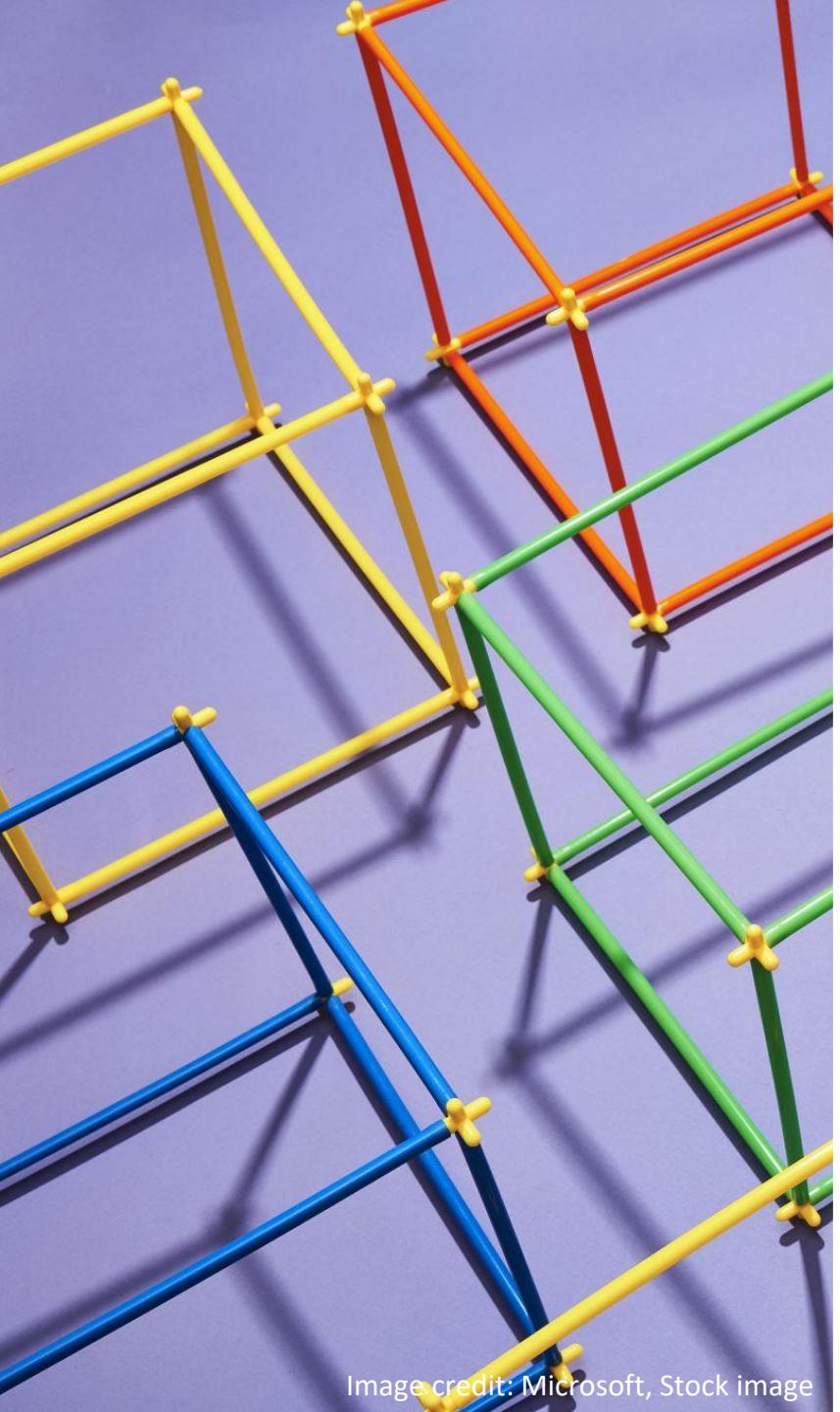


Image credit: Microsoft, Stock image

- Discuss file-sharing specifically with students^{2,3}

¹ Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. (2020). Contracting to cheat in higher education: how to address essay mills and contract cheating. <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/guidance/contracting-to-cheat-in-higher-education-2nd-edition.pdf>

² Rogerson, A. M., & Basanta, G. (2016). Peer-to-peer file sharing and academic integrity in the internet age. In T. Bretag (Ed.), *Handbook of Academic Integrity* (pp. 273-285) Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-287-098-8_55

³ Sutton, A., & Taylor, D. (2011). Confusion about collusion: working together and academic integrity. *Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education*, 36(7), 831-841.

Do ask yourself these questions:

Are these my own lecture notes (not word-for-word notes from my professor or another person) or study materials?

If they are not, you can't share them without permission.

Who am I deciding to share my materials with?

What are their *terms of service*? Are they trustworthy? Do I have to pay? Do I need to provide my personal information? Where will my information be stored?

Don't share files that are not yours because these are protected by copyright law.

Instructors often provide students with slides, handouts, assignments, journal articles, and practice exams by email or UM Learn for educational purposes. The way that you use them must comply with copyright law.

Don't share files to help someone cheat, which is an academic integrity violation under the University of Manitoba's Student Discipline Bylaw.

Don't share your personal information with individuals or companies if you cannot be sure how and where that information will be used.

Do's and Don'ts of sharing course notes and study materials



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SHOW YOUR INTEGRITY



University
of Manitoba

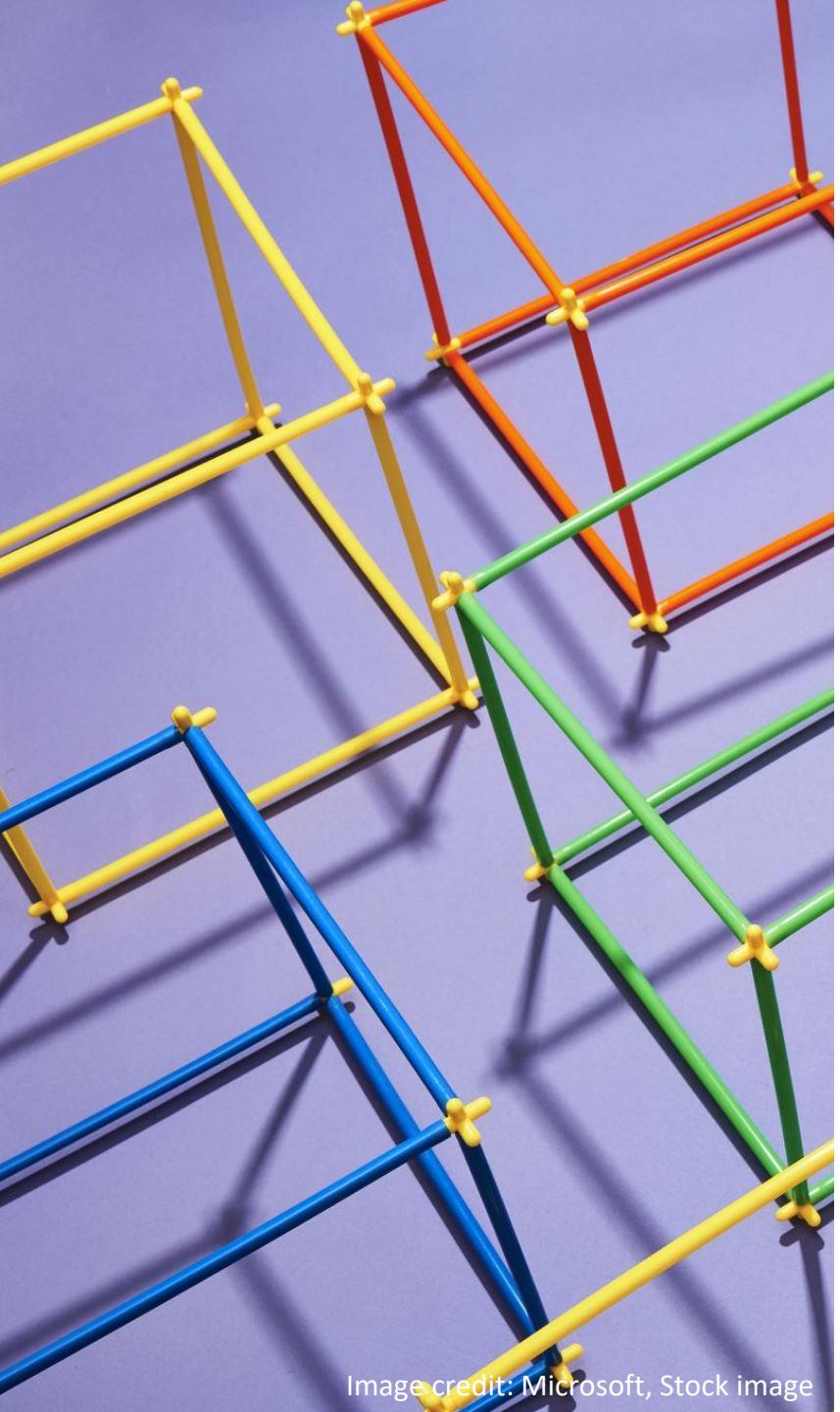


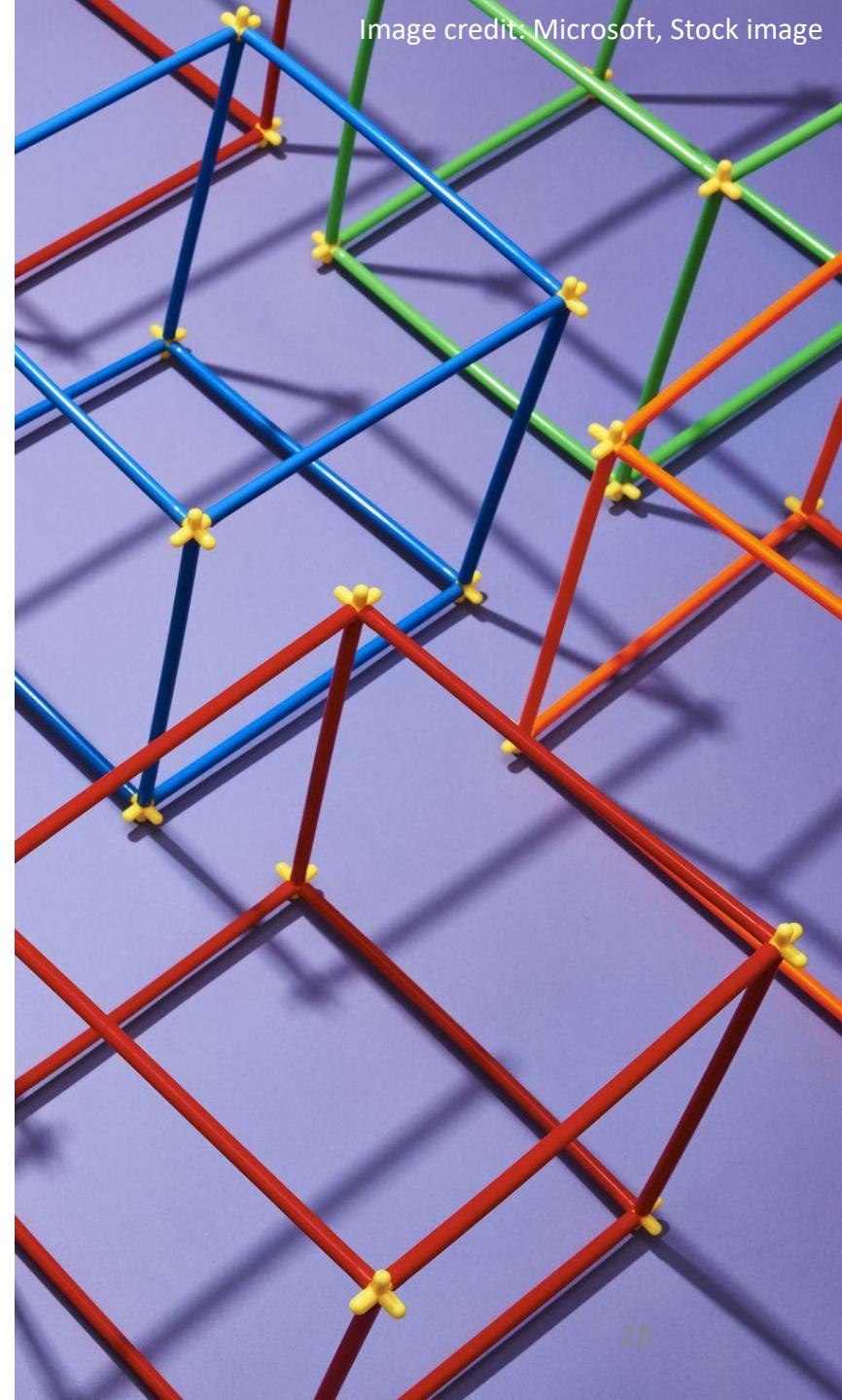
Image credit: Microsoft, Stock image

- "Assessment design, redesign, and refresh"²
- Limit access to marked assessments
- Add watermarks to all your course materials
- Search for your assessments on file-sharing company websites and request removal¹
- Use RSS feeds¹

¹ Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. (2020). Contracting to cheat in higher education: how to address essay mills and contract cheating. <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/guidance/contracting-to-cheat-in-higher-education-2nd-edition.pdf>

² Rogerson, A. M., & Basanta, G. (2016). Peer-to-peer file sharing and academic integrity in the internet age. In T. Bretag (Ed.), *Handbook of Academic Integrity* (pp. 273-285) Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-287-098-8_55

- Update institutional policies and procedures
- Communicate to the learning community that the practice of file-sharing may be a copyright violation²
- Block contract cheating and file-sharing website addresses on institutional networks¹



¹ Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. (2020). Contracting to cheat in higher education: how to address essay mills and contract cheating. <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/guidance/contracting-to-cheat-in-higher-education-2nd-edition.pdf>

² Rogerson, A. M., & Basanta, G. (2016). Peer-to-peer file sharing and academic integrity in the internet age. In T. Bretag (Ed.), *Handbook of Academic Integrity* (pp. 273-285) Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-287-098-8_55

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Key Questions

Is academic file-sharing a form of contract cheating?

Is inappropriate academic file-sharing a passive or active form of academic misconduct?

How do your institution's policies and/or procedures address academic file-sharing?