



**THOMPSON
RIVERS
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KAMLOOPS

Contract Cheating Homework Systems

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Contract Cheating and Homework Systems

What is Contract Cheating?

(Ferguson et al., 2021)

Contract Cheating can be described as “third party outsourcing.”

- Simply defined - getting *someone* or *something* to do your work for you.



(Image: Paley, 2020)

Some examples

If you get a parent or friend or classmate to help you complete an assignment or test - that's *Contract Cheating*.

Under Academic Misconduct: Obtaining an un-administered test/assignment or any information about the test/assignment from another person.

If you access a “homework system”, like CHEGG, *that's Contract Cheating*.

Under Cheating: Collaborating during a test with any other person by receiving information without authority.
Note: test can also mean assignment.

If you copy and paste from a website or buy an essay online from an essay mill/ghost writer, etc, - *that's Contract Cheating*.

Under Plagiarism: The inclusion of someone else's words, ideas, images, or data as one's own work.

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The Unauthorized 3 Steps

(Javeed, 2018)

1. Students have unlimited access to information on the Internet.
2. Students are deciding for themselves what is acceptable.
3. Students are “copy and pasting” information and think this is acceptable.

Social Media platforms such as Instagram and TikTok are NOT reputable source to find accurate information.

ASK YOUR INSTRUCTOR for acceptable practices in your class.

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Accountability

(International Center for Academic Integrity, 2023)

Core Values: *honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage.*

(McKenzie, 2018; Michael & Williams, 2013)

Must understand and respect Academic Integrity

- These skills are transferable for a job after university.
- Leads to consistent responsible behavior as an employee.
- If not, toxic behavior leads to increased dishonest behavior as an employee.

Think about that: doctors, nurses, teachers, lawyers, judges, engineers - any job that requires ethical conduct.

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(Eaton, 2020; Golden, 2013; Hughes, 2017)

- Students cheat because they are desperate.

(Yorke et al., 2020)

Some reasons why students are desperate.

- Struggling with assignments
- Not happy with their educational environment
- Poor time management
- Procrastination
- Study at irregular hours

Homework Systems and Contract Cheaters know this and capitalize (\$\$\$) on student desperation.



(Image: Cullen, 2020)

Contract Cheating and Homework Systems

(Grue et al., 2021)

- Contract cheating is BIG business
- Some of these contract cheaters are worth billions of dollars.
- Bought and traded on the stock market
- There are remarkable similarities with organized crime.

Organized Crime	Contract Cheating Industry
Motivated by generating profit from illicit or illegal activities for which there is a demand (e.g., drugs, prostitution, etc.)	Motivated by generating profit from illicit or illegal activities for which there is a demand (e.g., selling academic work, unethical tutoring, etc.)
Is a unique sub-culture of society.	Is a unique sub-culture of education.
Spreads because of demand and political conditions.	Since the 1990s - Spreads because of demand and political conditions.
Willing to blackmail and harass individuals to achieve its goals.	Willing to blackmail and harass students to achieve its goals.
Difficult to prosecute.	Currently not illegal in Canada.
Launders money through legitimate businesses. Illegal activities bring in the big money.	Offers seemingly legitimate services such as tutoring, but also offers illicit services that enable academic misconduct.
Individual law enforcement officers have little power to act against organized crime.	Individual educators have little power against contract cheating companies.

(Graph: Grue et al., 2021)

Contract Cheating and Homework Systems

Tutors tutor and cheaters cheat.

It is important to understand the difference.

Contract cheaters advertise as a paid service for “tutoring.”

They do not tutor.

(Clarke-Gray, 2021)

- Average cost of their “tutoring” service - \$125 to \$200 (initial cost).
- If you use their service once, they will leverage you for more \$\$\$\$. If you refuse to pay, they contact the Academic Integrity office and tell on you – then a case gets filed against you.
- If you get caught using their service, they will NOT help you.
- There are no laws to punish contract cheaters.



(Image: Hall, 2018)

Homework Systems and Contract Cheaters

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This means.....

When you upload anything (syllabus, rubric, assignments) to their website - you give them permission to keep those files and share them with other contract cheaters. If you cancel your membership with them - they still get to keep the files.

Note: a syllabus, rubric, or assignment guidelines are NOT your intellectual property to share.

Homework Systems and Contract Cheaters

How to detect Contract Cheaters – They disguise themselves as legitimate tutoring services.

1. They charge a fee (some are free, but don't be fooled).
2. Guarantee "Homework solution on the same day."
3. They offer 24/7 assistance.
 - a. Notification pop-up window.
4. They use university names in their company name.
 - a. Example: The Princeton Review (not affiliated with Princeton University).
5. Put news channel logos on their webpage.
6. Have university graduation pictures on their website.
7. They'll have an outside source "educational expert" to endorse them.
8. They'll have pictures of "experts" with their accreditation – PHd, MEd, MSc.
 - a. No evidence these credentials are legitimate.
 - b. Pictures: could be the designers/owners.

Contract Cheating and Homework Systems

3 Tips for Students

(Boisvert et al., 2021)

- Be aware of unsolicited emails offering homework help.
 - These emails are from contract cheaters looking for more clients (\$\$\$).
- Avoid online study groups.
 - Discord (gaming chat site): third part cheating (discussing ideas/strategizing on how to “get ahead”).
- Understand how Google can mislead you.
 - Search algorithm: designed to provide you with more “information” related to what you search.

Contract Cheating and Homework Systems

The Moral

You (and only you) are responsible for your work.

Yes, the learning process is a grind - but it helps you in the long run.

Value in hard work

Thank You

For further information or questions

Contact

Learning Strategist for Academic Integrity

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