

# **Sonoma State University Computer Science Department**

## **Policy on Collaboration**

You are encouraged to discuss course material with other students. Don't be shy about consulting with anyone, but please understand that you, and only you, bear the responsibility for solving the problems associated with producing a successful project or solving a lab assignment. Please read the CS Department policy on plagiarism and keep the following in mind.

All material turned in for credit must be your own work (team assignments are an exception to this). You may discuss ideas and approaches but you should work out all details and write up all solutions on your own. Copying part or all of another student's assignment, with or without the student's knowledge, is prohibited. Similarly, copying old or published solutions is prohibited.

Receive help with care. Avoid working too closely with another student. Otherwise, you can unwittingly become dependent on that student's help and fool yourself into thinking that you understand things better than you really do. Always attempt to do as much as you can on your own. Then, after you do seek help, be sure to work through similar problems on your own. Also, don't forget other sources of programming help such as the your textbook, <http://www.cplusplus.com>, the debugger, and CodeWarrior and Visual C++ documentation.

Give help with care. Don't help too much. When you understand something, you may be tempted to show someone the complete solution. However, if you do this, you will rob them of the learning experience of reaching the solution on their own. Try giving a hint that will help them get "unstuck". Although you are allowed to help other students, you are never under any obligation to do so.

Violations of these restrictions carry severe penalties. Remember that you are ultimately (i.e., during an exam or quiz) responsible for understanding the material.