

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

6.012 Microelectronic Devices and Circuits

Spring 2009

Policy for Academic Conduct

The homework and design problem in 6.012 are prepared with the aim of complementing lectures and recitation sessions, as well as reinforcing key material. It should be no surprise to you that typically there is a strong correlation between the homework grade and the total course grade, therefore you are far better off doing your homework in a timely manner. There, too, should be no doubt to you that working on the problem sets and design problem is extremely effective in assuring your command of the course material. Keeping this in mind, you may have questions about what constitutes ethical and unethical behavior while completing homework in 6.012.

Our judgement is that the primary purpose of homework is to help students learn and gain practical experience in the subject matter. Allowing and encouraging collaboration with fellow students best serves this purpose. Modern engineering is, after all, almost exclusively a team effort. On the other hand, fairness requires us to be able to assess your *own* contribution – doing so will provide to you valuable feedback and help alleviate misunderstandings. Therefore, the written material that you hand in *must be your own work*, and any discussions or collaborations with fellow students must be identified in writing on your solution (e.g. noting "the solution to problem #2 benefited from discussions with John Moll", or "the optimization strategy of design problem #3 was worked out together with Jim Early"). Each party must acknowledge the collaboration. We will view two nearly identical solutions from two different students that do no cross-reference each other's designs as statistically "unlikely," thus worthy of further examination.

This policy is intended to help you make the most out of 6.012 by allowing you to freely work with your classmates. If you have doubts as to what constitutes ethical or unethical behavior, please contact any member of the staff. We will be happy to assist you in your judgement.

Violations of this policy will be handled with the maximum severity allowed by the Institute's regulations regarding academic honesty as outlined on the web at <http://web.mit.edu/policies/10.2.html>.

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