Collaboration with others and using the ideas of others in academic settings
A guideline for students

One of the values to which we, as a UCT community commit ourselves[1], is "truth, fairness, consistency, and integrity in both academic and other work, and in all personal and institutional relationships". This has important implications for your academic work while you are a student here. In an academic setting, it is important to always acknowledge the ideas and work of others when submitting work under your name.

This is fairly easy to do when you are working on your own. You need to reference all ideas that you use from other people appropriately; failure to do this is called **plagiarism.** You can find guidance on how to reference on the University's Library website[2]. The University also has a guide for students on Avoiding Plagiarism[3]. Plagiarism has consequences as outlined in the guideline and in the General Rules and Policies of the University: Rules on conduct for students[4]. You should also check for any faculty specific guidelines about plagiarism in your faculty's Handbook[5].

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                          SHARED DATA:
    An example of collaborative work that could lead to collusion or plagiarism

As part of preparing to write a short research report, first-year students are
instructed to conduct two interviews with acquaintances or family members to
elicit their views and opinions on a particular topic. Students are asked to
share their interview data in groups of five, so that each group now has access
to ten sets of interview data. The lecturer explains that although group members
have shared their interview data in order to have access to a bigger set of data,
each student still has to write an individual research report based on the shared
data. The lecturer specifies that each data source drawn on or quoted from in the
report should be identified as follows: (Interview by Name of interviewer, date
of interview).

Collusion or plagiarism could easily arise in this example. Students could end up
with very similar reports if they worked together on analysing the data or
formulating their findings or arguments collectively. This would be a case of
collusion, since instead of merely pooling their data, they also pooled the ideas
that they derived from the data. If students ignored the instruction to reference
their data sources, they would be guilty of plagiarism, since they would be
giving the impression that they had collected all the data themselves.
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[1] http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/about/policies/UCT_Statement_of_Values.pdf

[2] http://www.lib.uct.ac.za/research-help/referencing-help/

[3] http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/about/policies/plagiarism_students.pdf

[4] http://www.uct.ac.za/downloads/uct.ac.za/apply/handbooks/Handbook3GeneralRulesPolicies2014.pdf

[5] http://www.uct.ac.za/apply/handbooks/

Adhering to this value becomes trickier when you are working with other students. You may be directed to work with other students by an instructor on your course. In this case, you may each have to submit an individual assignment or you may have to work together to submit a single assignment. It is very important that you make sure exactly what is expected of you for each assignment, because this can be different for different assignments.

If you are instructed to work together and submit a single assignment, this is **permissible collaboration**. You may or may not be asked to indicate who contributed what to the assignment. These declarations should adhere to the University's values and the statement templates in the guide for students on avoiding plagiarism[3].

If you are instructed to each submit an individual assignment, it is not permissible to use any part of the assignment that has been created by another student, past or present. Doing so with the other person's knowledge is called **collusion**, which has consequences for both parties. Doing so without the other person's knowledge is **dishonest conduct**, which has consequences for the person committing the offence.

If you have been given an assignment that you are expected to complete individually, unless instructed otherwise, it is not permissible to use any part of the assignment that another student has created, whether with (collusion) or without (plagiarism) that person's knowledge. Such conduct has consequences.

COLLABORATIVE CODING:
Changes do not make for individual submissions

The following are examples of code that could be submitted by two students who are expected to work on the problem individually. The submitted work, while on the surface different, are clearly the result of collusion. There are complex but identical calculations, obvious variable name changes, inconsistent formatting rules that are identical, and identical vertical spacing.

```
m = input("Enter the signage:\n")            mes = input("Enter the signage:\n")
r = int(input("Repeat count:\n"))            rep = int(input("Repeat count:\n"))
t = int(input("Enter the diameter:\n"))      thi = int(input("Enter the diameter:\n"))

line = 0                                     line = 0
ml = len(m)+2                                mesl = len(mes)+2
k = 0                                        k = 0
for i in range(t):                           for i in range(thi):
print(i*"|","+",(ml-2+(2*t))*"-             print(i*"|","+",(mesl-2+(2*thi))*"-
","+",i*"|", sep="")                         ","+",i*"|", sep="")
    ml = ml-2                                    mesl = mesl-2
    k = k+1                                      k = k+1

for j in range(r+1):                         for j in range(rep+1):
    if j>0:                                      if j>0:
        print((t)*"|", m, (t)*"|")               print((thi)*"|", mes, (thi)*"|")

for p in range(t):                           for p in range(thi):
print(((t-1)-p)*"|","+",(ml+(2*t))          print(((thi-1)-p)*"|","+",(mesl+(2*thi))
*"-","+",((t-1)-p)*"|", sep="")              *"-","+",((thi-1)-p)*"|", sep="")
    ml =ml +2                                    mesl =mesl +2
```