

12 Fair play-avoiding academic penalties

Hi everyone,

Today we're talking about academic integrity - basically, how to make sure your work follows our academic rules and avoids any penalties. Just like games have rules to keep things fair, universities have strict guidelines about academic work.

Let's be honest - sometimes these rules can seem complicated when you're new to academic life, but understanding them now is much better than learning about them the hard way.

Let's look at what you need to know:

First up - plagiarism. This means using someone else's work without properly crediting them. Whether it's copying from websites, using other students' work, or not referencing your sources properly - it's all considered plagiarism. And yes, we can spot it easily with detection software so be warned, it will affect your marks.

Here's something really important - collusion isn't the same as collaboration. Working together in the games room or broadcast studio is fine when you're discussing ideas or studying together, but assignments need to be your own individual work. Don't be tempted to share answers or copy each other's work - if two assignments look too similar, both students could face penalties.

When it comes to research, you need to play it straight. Whether it's game analytics, player statistics, or research data - don't make it up or manipulate it. If you're not sure if something's allowed, check with your tutor - they'd rather answer a quick question than deal with academic misconduct.

What about AI and online tools? There are specific rules about using ChatGPT and similar technologies. Make sure you know what's allowed and what isn't. When in doubt, ask your module leader.

Here's a useful tip - keep track of your sources as you research. Nothing's worse than finishing an assignment and realising you can't remember where you found that perfect quote. We covered this in our Source Code video number 5 on referencing.

Time pressure can tempt you to take shortcuts, but it's not worth it. Missing a deadline is better than submitting something that breaks academic rules. Talk to your tutor if you're struggling - there might be options like extensions.

Remember - these rules aren't about catching you out. They're about making sure everyone's work is their own and properly credits their sources.