

## How Cheating Cheats You

**You do not master material being taught.** If you have to cheat to pass a test or complete an assignment, you are not learning the information your instructor assumes you know. This can only lead to your falling further behind because much of what you learn in college is cumulative, i.e. it builds on previous knowledge.

**You miss out on learning skills.** Employers expect college graduates to possess certain skills such as critical thinking and the ability to write. If you are copying answers rather than learning answers, you do not absorb the skills taught in your classes. This lack of knowledge will lessen/affect/diminish your ability to impress future employers.

**You set yourself on the wrong course.** Your moral compass guides your actions in life, not just in the classroom. Once you cheat in college, you are on a slippery slope to behaving dishonestly with employers, colleagues, and institutions.

**You lose integrity.** Your values and ethics form your moral core. Ask how you want to define yourself.

**You harm others.** Think about how your dishonest actions affect others. Failing to do your share, contributing unreliable work, or using shady actions to attain goals reflects poorly on a whole team. Dishonesty skews fair competition in the classroom. The results of the class as a whole are distorted when some students take the easy way out while others put in the honest hard work needed to succeed fairly.

**You fail to develop grit.** Grit is one of the main characteristics that helps people get ahead. If you have to cheat to do well, you are taking the short-sighted path instead of doing the work you need to succeed. People who are successful in college and beyond know that hard work is the reason.

**You lose a sense of pride.** The sense of accomplishment you feel when you complete a difficult task cannot be matched by the short-lived sense relief you have when you see you've passed a test or cheated your way to an acceptable grade.

**You waste your costly education.** You (and perhaps your parents) are underwriting an expensive education. Cheating undermines one of the biggest investments you'll ever make.