Detailed Policies as recommended by the Faculty of Science and tailored to PHYS 312, 2026W.

Academic concession

You may need to request an academic concession for medical reasons, on compassionate grounds, or in certain cases of conflicting responsibilities. Please refer to UBC's policy on Academic Concession for details.

To apply for an academic concession, please inform your instructor as soon as possible. In most cases, proof (such as a doctor's note) is not required.

If you are ill

Please don't come to class if you have an illness that could be transmitted to your classmates (e.g., a respiratory infection). In this class, the marking scheme is intended to provide flexibility so that you can prioritize your health and still succeed. Please inform your instructor if you are ill; you will not lose participation marks if you miss a small number of classes due to illness. If you are ill for a long period of time, please contact your instructor to discuss, and apply for an academic concession. More information about UBC's framework for preventing communicable disease is here.

Academic Integrity, Generative Artificial Intelligence, and Copyright

What is academic integrity?

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work; nor should you help others to do the same. For example, it is prohibited to: share your past assignments and answers with other students; work with other students on an assignment when an instructor has not expressly given permission; or spread information through word of mouth, social media, websites, or other channels that subverts the fair evaluation of a class exercise, or assessment.

Why is academic integrity important?

As a student, your number one task is to learn new things. Just like your professors, however, you are a member of a university scholarly community. As a part of this community, you are responsible for engaging with existing knowledge and contributing ideas of your own. Academics—including you!—build knowledge through rigorous research that expands on the contributions of others, both in the faraway past and around the world today. This is called scholarship. Academic integrity, in short, means being an honest, diligent, and responsible scholar. This includes:

- Accurately reporting the results of your research, e.g., when collecting data in a lab.
- Taking exams without cheating.
- Completing assignments independently or acknowledging collaboration when appropriate. Collaboration through group work is an effective way to learn. I will clearly indicate when you should collaborate, for example during in-class group work and on some online homework assignments.
- Creating and expressing your own original ideas.
- Engaging with the ideas of others, both past and present, in a variety of scholarly platforms such as research journals, books by academics, lectures, etc.
- Explicitly acknowledging the sources of your knowledge, especially through accurate citation practices.

What should I know about sharing/uploading course materials?

We are working hard to provide all the materials you need to succeed in this course. In return, please respect our work. All assignment instructions, quiz questions and answers, discussion questions, announcements, PowerPoint slides, audio/video recordings, Canvas modules, and any other materials provided to you by the Teaching Team or in the textbook are for use in this course by students currently enrolled in PHYS 312. It is *unacceptable* to share any of these materials beyond our course, including by posting on file-sharing websites (e.g., CourseHero, Google Docs). It is *unacceptable* to copy and paste, or upload, course materials into generative AI tools. Respect the Teaching Team and textbook authors' intellectual property, and follow copyright law.

What happens when academic integrity is breached?

Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating may result in a mark of zero on the assignment or exam and more serious consequences may apply if the matter is referred for consideration for academic discipline. Careful records are kept to monitor and prevent recurrences. Any instance of cheating or taking credit for someone else's work, whether intentionally or unintentionally, can and often will result in at minimum a grade of zero for the assignment, and these cases will be reported to the Head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy and Associate Dean Students of the Faculty of Science.

What support is available?

Feel free to ask me about academic integrity. Part of my job is to guide your growth as a scholar, and I would much rather you ask for clarification than unintentionally engage in academic misconduct, which has serious consequences. If you are unsure about what constitutes academic misconduct, please reach out to me after class, during office hours, on Piazza or via email.

Sometimes students who are experiencing a lot of stress feel the only way to deal with a situation is to cheat. Please do not do this. Talk to me, and I am sure we can work something out together.

To help you learn your responsibilities as a scholar, please read and understand UBC's expectations for academic honesty in the UBC Calendar: "Academic Honesty," "Academic Misconduct," and "Disciplinary Measures,". Read and reflect on the Student Declaration and Responsibility.

For written assignments and help with plagiarism and citation, see the Centre for Writing and Scholarly Communication.

Additional resources for learning with integrity can be found on the UBC Academic Integrity Website.

Collaboration and AI

Our course activities and and assignments are intended to be completed either individually or in groups, allowing you to work with your peers if you so wish. It is unacceptable to have others write assignments on your behalf, to write assignments on others' behalf, to copy other students' work, or to allow other students to copy your work. In other words, the solutions you hand in must be your own work: you should not be looking at anybody else's notes, solutions or code while writing up your solutions. If asked questions, you may share your thinking with classmates, but not your completed work. Both copying from another student's completed work and sharing your completed work with another student will be considered academic misconduct.

Similarly, students are permitted to use artificial intelligence tools, including generative AI tools, to gather information, review concepts, create examples or to advice on syntax when coding, but the use of generative AI tools to create complete solutions to assignments is not allowed and would be considered academic misconduct. Further, students are ultimately accountable for the work they submit, and any content generated or supported by an artificial intelligence tool must be cited appropriately. Use generative AI tools judiciously so they don't impede your learning, as practicing the craft of complex problem solving from beginning to end is crucial to your success.

Use of AI tools is not permitted during tests, midterms and final exams.

Finally, if you use such tools, you should be aware of the privacy implications for doing so: for more information, please refer to UBC's Privacy Impact Assessment for generative AI tools.

Extreme Environmental Conditions (Policy SC5, Science Guidance)

Weather Contingency Plan for Class Sessions, Quizzes, and Exams

In-person, on campus activities may need to be cancelled due to issues such as weather conditions (e.g., snow). The most up-to-date information about cancellations will be posted on ubc.ca. Please check ubc.ca often during times when an extreme weather event could disrupt our course activities. If in-person classes or exams are cancelled, the following contingency plans will take effect. The uncertainty that comes with extreme weather events can be stressful. Rest assured I will be flexible with assignment deadlines and communicate with you as early as I can. I will try to communicate with you about weather-related class

cancellations through Canvas announcements. Here is what you can expect in the event an in-person class session, quiz, or exam is cancelled:

[if moving class online] In case in-person classes are cancelled due to weather: If in-person activities are cancelled due to weather or other environmental conditions, class will be held online. The Zoom link will be posted on Canvas. For those unable to participate in an online class on short notice, I will provide a lecture recording that is posted to Canvas.

[if moving to asynchronous online work] In case in-person classes are cancelled due to weather: If in-person activities are cancelled due to weather or other environmental conditions, an activity will be posted on Canvas for you to complete before our next in-person class.

[if not moving class online] In case in-person classes are cancelled due to weather: If in-person activities are cancelled due to weather or other environmental conditions, lab will be cancelled. I will let you know how this will affect the lab schedule for the rest of the term.

[if rescheduling] If weather impacts the midterm we will reschedule: Please see Canvas for rescheduling notifications. It is likely the quiz/midterm will take place at the next class session.

[if moving quiz online] If weather impacts the quiz/midterm it will be held online. Instructions for how to take the exam online will be posted on Canvas. If you are unable to participate in the online midterm, please contact me. If you have time accommodations for the midterm, we will provide those accommodations. For any other accommodations, please reach out to the CFA as soon as possible to work out a plan exam.coordinator@ubc.ca.

[if cancelling and reweighting] If weather impacts the quiz/midterm, it will be dropped and the weight will be redistributed to other course components as follows outlined in the main part of the syllabus.

If you are registered to write exams at the Centre for Accessibility, I encourage you to reach out to your CFA advisor well in advance to discuss the weather contingency plan for this course.

If you have any questions or concerns about this weather contingency plan, please come talk to me. Discussing any issues prior to the cancellation is helpful so we can work out a plan in advance.

Learning Analytics

Learning analytics includes the collection and analysis of data about learners to improve teaching and learning. This course will or might be using Canvas, Piazza, Zoom and Panopto which capture data about your activity and provide information that can be used to improve the quality of teaching and learning. In this course, your instructor and TA may use analytics data to view overall class progress, and track individual students' progress in order to assess participation in the course.

University Values and Policies

Resources to support student success

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles, but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access, including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated, nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty, and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others, and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions.

Details of the policies and how to access support are available on the UBC Senate website.