

# CHEATING

## Your Way Through College

By **STEPHANIE MONTOYA**  
Design **KAIT MCKINNEY**  
Photos **LIZ ZABEL**

So you know that page of your class syllabus with the long, wordy paragraph about Academic Dishonesty? You know, the one you throw away because all you care about is the class schedule (and maybe not even that)? Let it be known that that piece of paper is taken very seriously in college.

Cheating has become all too common and all too creative on campus. Students have devised ways to work around cheating safeguards that have been said to prevent such cheating practices. But journalism professor Joel Geske says, "If somebody really truly wants to cheat, they are going to find a way to do it." Students in his online JLMC 477 course tipped him off about students cheating on the unit quizzes.

"In this particular case, I was trying to be helpful to the students so that they could look at their answers and see what they had gotten wrong, and evidently there was someone sitting next to them with their laptop so that as the answers came up then they were recording theirs' on their test." Turns out trying to be helpful to the students ended up being a little too helpful, if you catch my drift. "I feel bad that you can't give the honest students the full learning opportunity that they have," Geske says.

Students do not even need to get too creative. Video tutorials summarize the skills required to cheat. But some of these techniques are classics, like writing answers on your shoe or eraser. Some have even gone as far as hiring

other students to take their exams or write their papers. Nowadays, that seems to be a lucrative business. Speaking to only a handful of students revealed endless strategies, from taking an almost microscopic piece of paper with formulas into an exam to scanning a candy wrapper or chip bag and replacing ingredients with answers.

"The bottom line is when [students are] cheating, they're cheating themselves out of those skills that they were supposed to get, so that's going to catch up with them in the business world," Geske says. If you're willing to put the time into scanning a Snickers wrapper, change the ingredient list to test answers (while making sure it all fits and still looks like the original wrapper), print it, repackaging your already stale Snickers bar, and take it to class, seems like you might actually have time to study and learn what happened during the Peloponnesian War. But next time you see someone in lecture stretching a little too much into your personal bubble, they probably want to know the answer to question 20.

**The classic copy:** Friend does homework, you copy homework, you submit homework.

**Paper purchasing:** Shopping around for a decent paper is like shopping for a new car. It takes the perfect combination of expertise and time to select the one. Preferred websites include EssaysFree.com, BigNerds.com and AcademicTermPapers.com. Proceed with caution.

**Bathroom break:** After all that pencil chewing, a bathroom break is needed. It is the perfect time to call or text a friend who already took the test to give you the answers. Who knew peeing could be so useful?

**Musical mischief:** Tunes help students focus sometimes even during tests and quizzes. I wonder if Foster the People can come up with a song with calc answers?

**Foot frenzy:** This one is just one form of signaling answers to each other across the room. A pair or even a group of students will devise a set of foot or pencil taps to signal the correct answer. For example, one tap means "A", two means "B", etc. \*Note: this method only works for a single version exam.

**The water bottle method:** Unwrap the label of a water bottle or other liquid vessel with a label. Write the formulas, vocab words or any other useful info on the label and re-glue it back on. Proceed to take the water bottle to the test and sneak a peek under the label. Maybe take a sip of water in between just in case all that work makes you parched.

