Collaborating or Working in Groups

Generally in my classes, I encourage students to work together on the homework problems, review problems, studying, and projects. However, there is *good collaboration*, and then there is *academic misconduct*. To help clarify what the university considers good collaboration, I will give you the following two lists:

Good Collaboration

- Try all of the homework problems yourself, on your own.

- After working on every problem yourself, then get together with a small group of other students who have also worked on every problem themselves. Discuss ideas for how to do the more difficult problems.

- Finish the homework problems on your own so that what you turn in truly represents your own understanding of the material.

- Work the review problems individually, and then use the group for discussion.

- Discuss concepts or practice problems in the group

- Explain concepts or practice problems to each other.

- If the assignment involves writing a long worded explanation (like an essay question), you may proofread somebodys completed written work and allow them to proofread your work. Do this only after you have both completed your own assignments, though.

- If you are working on a group quiz, everyone should work all of the problems themselves before getting together to talk through their reasoning and decide on the best final answers.

- Asking a tutor for help on a problem related to a homework problem but then working the actual homework problem yourself.

Academic Misconduct

- Sitting in a group and dividing up the problems. (You do #1, I'll do #2, and he'll do #3: then we'll share our work to get the assignment done more quickly.)

- Attending a group work session without having first worked all of the problems yourself.

- Starting the problem yourself but then just copying somebody elses solution for the rest of the problem after you got stuck.

- Reading someone elses answers before you have completed your work (especially for an essay-type question).

- Having a tutor work though all (or some) of your homework problems for you to copy down.