Making Sense of Academic Integrity: Computer Science
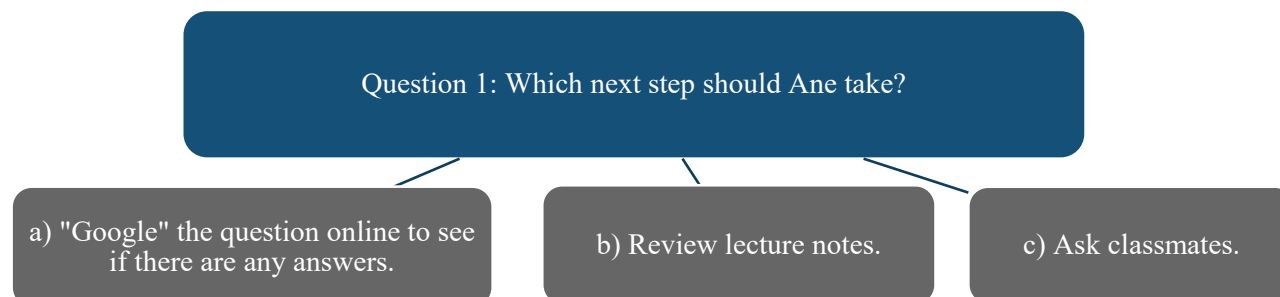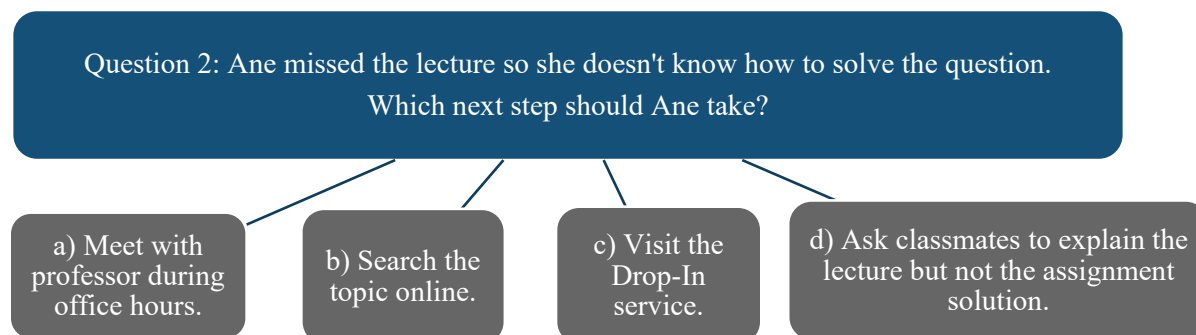
Ane has an assignment in COSC 1P03. Ane needs to write Java code to create a linked structure.

Question 1: Which next step should Ane take?

a) "Google" the question online to see if there are any answers.

b) Review lecture notes.

c) Ask classmates.

Question 1 Feedback:

a) (0 points) We're used to using the internet to answer our questions; however, this is academic misconduct. Assignments are a way to apply what we've learned in lectures. Review your lecture notes to identify how you might solve the question using what you've learned.

b) (1 point) Yes! Assignments are based on what you've covered in lectures. There's usually more than one way to solve a problem which makes each solution unique.

c) (0 points) Unless it's a group project, this is academic misconduct. Also, asking others will limit your creativity which results in similar approaches, solutions, and potential errors.

Question 2: Ane missed the lecture so she doesn't know how to solve the question. Which next step should Ane take?

a) Meet with professor during office hours.

b) Search the topic online.

c) Visit the Drop-In service.

d) Ask classmates to explain the lecture but not the assignment solution.

Question 2 Feedback:

a) (1 point) The professor won't re-teach the lecture, so make sure you review any course materials such as PowerPoints or chapter readings. Bring specific questions.

b) (1 point) Resources such as Khan Academy may help explain concepts, but always try to attend lectures to know how YOUR course and instructor is approaching the lecture topic. Never search for specific questions as part of your assignment.

c) (1 point) Drop-In is available by A-Z Learning Services and the Computer Science Department. Pay-per-hour tutoring is also available. Again, it's your responsibility to attend lecture to know how YOUR course and instructor is approaching the lecture topic. It's also your responsibility to decide how to approach an assignment question.

d) (0 points) Even if you simply ask about the lecture, remember that your classmates are students just like you. A misunderstanding can result in confusion and worse, academic misconduct if this misunderstanding transfers to an assignment and how you both approach a problem.