Collaboration

Collaboration is defined as the act of working with other people where sharing of ideas and working toward similar or the same goal is intended (Webster Dictionary). It is important to know when it is appropriate to work together on academic assignments, projects, exams, and test; and when it is not appropriate to do so.

Appropriate Collaboration

When it is allowed and on the areas specified by your professor, it is appropriate and sometimes expected to work with members of your team of group projects and assignments.

Inappropriate Collaboration

For individual assignments, the expected appropriate behaviour is to work on the assignment individually. If you are assigned to work on an assignment individually, you should not work on that with other students in your class or students who might know about the project.

However, please note that even on the group projects, you can contact resources available to you via college such as college librarians, Learning Support Centre student leaders, etc. These individuals are trained to help you with your assignments while maintaining appropriate academic integrity.

If you have questions on whether an assignment is an individual or group project and whether you can consult with others and how much you can do so, you can ask your professor about it.

Please remember that different professors might have different expectations depending on the program and assignment. Therefore, if you are not sure, it is advisable to contact your professor and it is advisable to contact the professor ahead of time. Usually, a few weeks before the assignment is due, and sometimes even one week before the due date is appropriate.

For an illustrating video on inappropriate collaboration, watch the following video by Sheridan College at Sheridan College video about understanding academic integrity.

Reference:
