



How can I protect myself?

Contract cheating is when students use a third party to do academic work on their behalf. It is called commercial contract cheating when it involves a company providing academic services.



Contract cheating companies target students under pressure or struggling with their education. They frame their services as legitimate student support, although they often use deception, and in extreme cases, they may use coercion and threats.

Protect yourself by:

Recognizing when you are being targeted by contract cheating companies



Staying safe on the internet by being cyber aware



Knowing what to do if you have been victimized



Watch for warning signs



Contract cheating companies:

- Market directly to students—they have tailored ads on campus and online; send unsolicited messages via social media.
- Encourage students to cheat—they pretend to offer tutorial support.
- Misuse students' personal information—they harass students to use the company services or ask for money.

Stay safe!

Learn how to protect yourself (and your information) on the internet by taking UVic CyberAware course and learn about other internet safety measures: www.uvic.ca/systems/support/informationsecurity/cyberaware.



Follow these steps



- Do not pay the individual or company attempting to demand money.
- Contact your instructor or TA, as the predator may also be trying to contact other students in the course.
- Contact the UVic Helpdesk immediately if you have been locked out of your student accounts: www.uvic.ca/systems/services/contact/index.php.
- Contact the UVic Ombudsperson for specialist help: uvicombudsperson.ca.
- Take care of yourself and seek out student mental health support: www.uvic.ca/student-wellness.
- Report the incident to the Government of Canada. Anyone can report suspected cheating and can do so anonymously: www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/094.nsf/frm-eng/MBED-AJL22H