

## What's the deal with "study help" websites/services?

"Homework helper" or "study help" websites operate under the guise of being professional and genuine academic support services with no obvious signs suggesting anything to do with cheating or plagiarism. They may:

- show up at the top of web searches and in ads on websites and apps.
- have resources related to studying and writing and "tools" such as grammar checkers, plagiarism checkers, and paraphrasers.
- promise things like "essay help," "experts" to answer your homework questions, and access to publisher materials, textbooks, study guides, and course materials, such as past exams.
- suggest you pay for their subscription or service for "extra help," such as someone to write your essay or solve your equations.
- have a "guarantee" or "promise" of high grades and that your use of their service will be "imperceptible" to those who you submit the work to.

Unfortunately, many of these promises are not only false, but they also put students at risk of serious repercussions. The reality is that students who use these services may find they never actually receive the work they paid for, receive low-quality or plagiarized work, or [are extorted by the company or "tutor" for additional money in threat of being exposed to their instructor and institution](#). Additionally, students can [get caught using these services](#) and face allegations of contract cheating, particularly as some of these [companies state that they will assist in academic investigations](#). The bottom line is that the companies behind these websites profit off of students, exploiting their insecurities or stress with false promises of easy success.

This is why you should always be wary of using any third party "study" websites. There are plenty of [appropriate resources](#) and services to access that won't put you at risk of academic misconduct, and they are completely free. You should never have to pay for learning support—the [Learning Strategist](#), [Academic Advisors](#), [Writing and Language Consultants](#), [Subject Tutors](#), [the Library](#), and [other services on our campus](#) are provided to UBCO students at no additional cost. If you are unsure whether a website is appropriate or not, contact [aim.ok@ubc.ca](mailto:aim.ok@ubc.ca), and we'll take a look for you!

---

### Website links:

- [bbb.org/article/news-releases/24032](https://bbb.org/article/news-releases/24032)
- [ubyssey.ca/news/more-students-may-have-cheated-with-chegg](https://ubyssey.ca/news/more-students-may-have-cheated-with-chegg)
- [nationalobserver.com/2020/09/28/news/covid-19-pandemic-changing-how-students-cheat-and-get-caught](https://nationalobserver.com/2020/09/28/news/covid-19-pandemic-changing-how-students-cheat-and-get-caught)
- [students.ok.ubc.ca/self-guided-resource](https://students.ok.ubc.ca/self-guided-resource)
- [students.ok.ubc.ca/learning-strategist](https://students.ok.ubc.ca/learning-strategist)
- [students.ok.ubc.ca/writing-language](https://students.ok.ubc.ca/writing-language)
- [students.ok.ubc.ca/subject-tutoring](https://students.ok.ubc.ca/subject-tutoring)
- [students.ok.ubc.ca/advising-options](https://students.ok.ubc.ca/advising-options)
- [library.ok.ubc.ca](https://library.ok.ubc.ca)
- [students.ok.ubc.ca/about-the-avp-students-portfolio/directory](https://students.ok.ubc.ca/about-the-avp-students-portfolio/directory)

