



Dear Cal Poly Student,

We in the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities (OSRR) understand that these are unique and challenging times. As a student, you are now required to complete your academic work remotely in order for the University to adhere to state guidelines and take responsibility for minimizing the spread of COVID-19. OSRR recognizes that this incredible shift, as well the additional aspects of our new shared reality, can be incredibly jarring, and we are here to help support you as you maintain your academic progress.

Following the University's expectations for academic integrity is an important component of your academic progress in this virtual learning environment. Opportunities to access academic content via the internet, PolyLearn, or from others might be tempting. Unless deemed acceptable by the instructor of record for your course, these actions could be considered cheating or plagiarism because they may afford you an unfair academic advantage or inaccurately represent your academic performance.

As a reminder, whether you are learning on campus or remotely, you are expected to be a good citizen and to engage in responsible behaviors that reflect well upon their university, to be civil to one another and others in the virtual campus community and contribute positively to student and university life. Particularly now, you should make personal decisions that support a positive learning environment for you and your peers, and that includes maintaining academic integrity.

Please note that while opportunities to cheat or plagiarize may be more readily available in a virtual learning environment, if your instructor is confident that you cheated or plagiarized, then the instructor will take appropriate action. Appropriate action taken by a professor is detailed in [AS-722-10](#), the Academic Senate's resolution for addressing cheating or plagiarism. In preparation for spring quarter, please take a moment to review AS-722-10, which is linked to this letter. You will see that OSRR *does* have a role in investigating accusations of cheating and plagiarism. More information about OSRR and academic integrity can be found [here](#).

Instructors may include an academic integrity policy statement in their syllabi. The policy should explain expectations for integrity, particularly within a virtual learning environment and in accordance with their discipline, and should include consequences for not meeting those expectations, such as a grade reduction for the task, assignment, exam, or course. You should pay specific attention to your instructors' academic integrity policy statement and clarify with them as needed.

In short, Cal Poly will not tolerate academic cheating or plagiarism in any form. Cases of cheating or plagiarism will be investigated both by your instructor and by the OSRR. The University expects you to follow the Mustang Way and demonstrate honest and ethical behavior as you complete spring quarter.



The Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities will continue to offer services remotely, all of which are aimed at being educational and developmental while also holding students accountable to the expectations of the university. Should you receive a letter from OSRR requiring you to meet and discuss a report of cheating or plagiarism, the meeting will either be held virtually or we will coordinate to make other arrangements. Thank you, in advance, for your patience as we schedule important meetings with you over the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

David Groom, PhD
Associate Dean of Students,
Director for Student Rights & Responsibilities