

Dear Rams,

You know how important your college education is for your future. The integrity of your degree depends on all Rams taking very seriously what your degree stands for—meaningful learning experiences that form a foundation for your career and life. These are challenging times, to say the least, **but academic dishonesty is unacceptable under any circumstance or for any reason.**

You may have heard that some students have used apps and programs such as GroupMe, Whatsapp, and others to cheat in their classes. This goes against our principles and our values as a community of learners. The consequences of this academic misconduct are significant and wide-ranging. Exams have been thrown out entirely, affecting the entire class. In some cases, all students in a chat have faced academic penalties, because it was impossible to distinguish who benefitted from shared answers and who did not.. Students' grades, their academic progress, their feelings about themselves and their work have all been impacted. You may be frustrated that this is happening, and we hear you.

That's why a group of CSU students, faculty, and staff came together this semester to study the problem and advise on how best to address this issue. The group suggests three steps that every student can take to avoid committing academic misconduct.

1. Read CSU's [rules about cheating](#) and other types of academic misconduct.
2. Know what is happening on the apps and programs you use to communicate with your classmates and beware of classmates providing or asking for exam/homework information or answers.
3. Talk with your instructor about when it's okay to collaborate and when it's not. When you see something happen on a class chat that is dishonest, say something to your instructor.

Rams take care of Rams. To do so, RAMS are **R**esponsible, **A**ccountable, **M**indful, and **S**incere. These are tough times, but we are all in this together, and together we are better and stronger.

Sincerely,