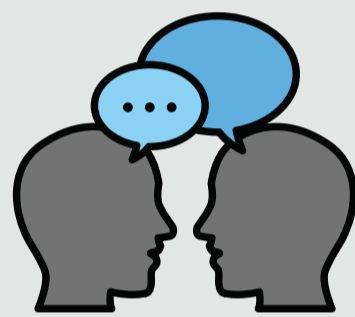# HOW DID ONLINE SCHOOL CHANGE THE NORMS OF CHEATING AT SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY?

During the COVID-19 Pandemic students and faculty had to adjust to online learning. This research was done to understand student attitudes and behaviors regarding online learning.

METHODOLOGY

Data was collected through an online anonymous survey and 12 one-on-one interviews with students from a variety of majors

PRIOR TO ONLINE SCHOOL

15% of students claimed to never have cheated while an additional 60% admitted to cheating on very rare occassions

DURING ONLINE SCHOOL

7% of students claimed to never have cheated while 70% of students said they cheated with moderate to regular frequency

70%

MAJOR EXAMS AND FINALS

55% of students cheated on major exams or finals during online school

"LEARNING LESS"

70% of students felt they were "learning less" during online school

FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS AND RECCOMENDATIONS

NOTABLE QUOTES

"You can't cheat on an online paper but you can cheat on an online test...so why would a professor have student grades rely on online tests?"

"I think in all of this I just realized how useless memorization is for exams. Your grades rely on your ability to regurgitate facts. If you make tests conceptually challenging, rather than memorization, then students will actually have to learn."

"Classes with open note tests were the ones I learned the most in."

"It felt like students adapted to cheating online faster than professors adapted to teaching online."

RECCOMENDATIONS

- Increased dialogue between students and faculty regarding syllabi flexibility and testing rationale
- Courses, when possible, should seek to increase the frequency and/or weight of projects or papers compared to traditional examinations
- Departments should encourage faculty to include "open note" examinations that are conceptually challenging
- Examinations should avoid sections reliant on memorization and replace those sections with more involved questions
- Faculty should avoid the use of "Lockdown Browser" or similar examination methods as many students found workarounds