



Loyola Marymount
University

Collaboration & Academic Honesty in Computing

LMU CMSI Program Goals

Work in our industry is a confluence of team + individual work

- **The LMU Computer Science graduate will be able to:**

- Communicate the purpose and technical details of a software system
- Work effectively as a team member
- Apply the right language or tool for a given computing task
- Design, implement, test, and evaluate software components and systems

Work in CMSI is social and involves a lot of team work!

...but that means you also have to be a strong individual to contribute!

...especially when it comes time for technical interviews!

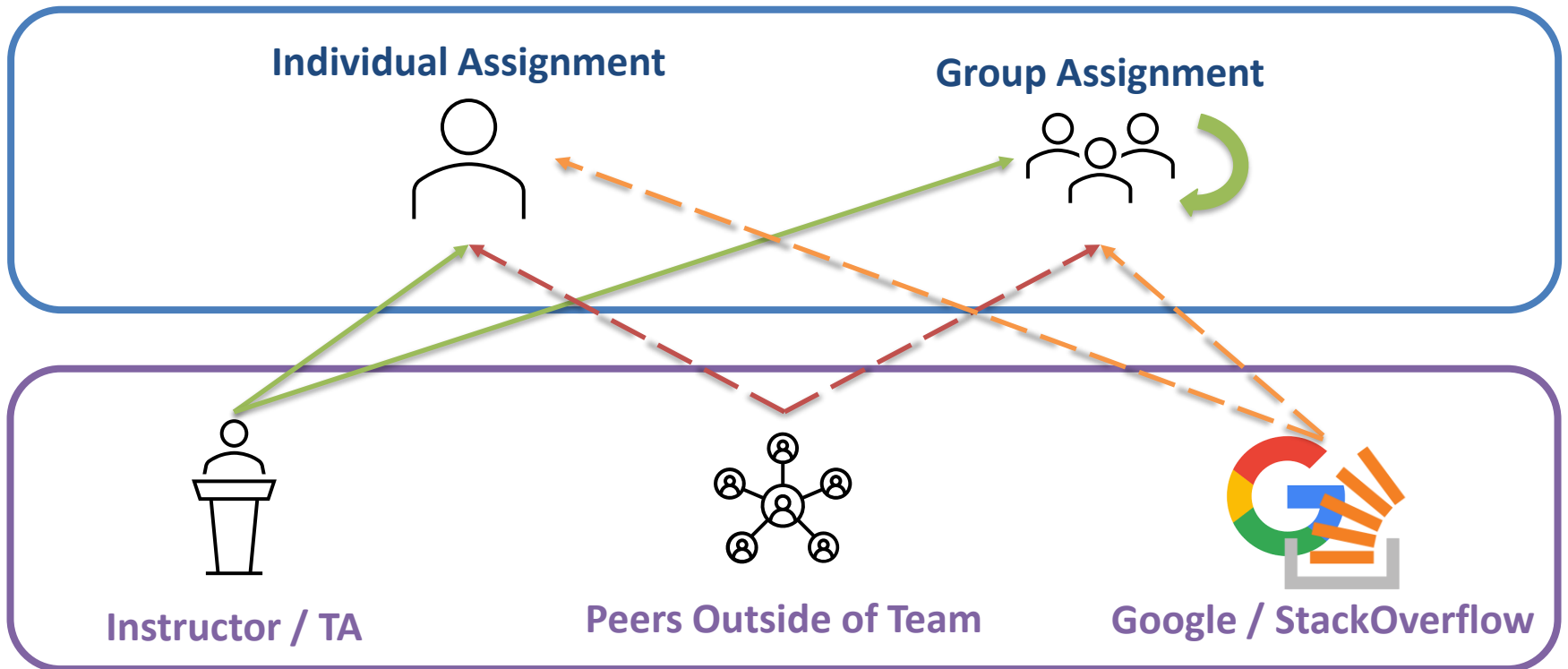
CMSI Collaboration: Pros & Cons

Working on computing projects in teams has its benefits and risks while learning!

Collaboration Pros	Collaboration Cons
<u>Teams are required</u> for projects of sufficient grandeur	If you're reliant on someone else to finish an assignment, <u>you're not learning</u>
<u>Peer-to-peer teaching</u> helps both the teacher and the student	<u>Diffusion of responsibility</u> can make it hard to finish a task
<u>Different perspectives</u> can often solve a problem more quickly than a single one	You <u>don't always get along</u> with your team members
<u>Discussions</u> within groups often yield questions to bring to the larger class	You might find that <u>you're doing all of the work</u> and others are along for the ride
Learning to <u>play a team role</u> helps you specialize and hone in on career choices	When explicitly banned on assignments, can tempt <u>academic dishonesty</u>

Expectations and Guidelines

You have 4 SHORT years to become strong individuals AND team members



Sources of Help / Code




→ Always OK

→ Sometimes OK

→ Help OK, not Code

Expectations and Guidelines

CMSI can be tough, so what constitutes as “appropriate” help?

	Instructor / TA	Peers Outside of Team	Google / StackOverflow
	Clarifications on lecture / assignments or asking to step through example problems	Drawing out (pictorially) how a problem was solved or writing plain-English descriptions of solution	Googling how small parts / tools of an assignment are used, e.g., syntax for iterating over keys in a map
	Asking an Instructor / TA to debug your code for you without specific questions	Asking to see someone else’s code or for them to share detailed specifics	Googling for, and then copying verbatim, the solution to the assignment
	Come prepared with: (1) What you’ve tried (2) What you’re expecting (3) What you’re getting	Ask someone to draw pictures of how they approached a problem	Ask the instructor if a specific code snippet is acceptable to copy, then attribute if so

Seeking Outside Help

Personal Empowerment Protocol: Start by Relying on Yourself First!

Consult Notes / Assignment Spec / Textbook

Acceptable Googling / ChatGPT Use*

*(for explanations, not copying lots of code)

Personal Empowerment!

Slack message to Prof. / TA

Office Hours

We're happy to help!
Remember though, you only
get us for 4 years!

Peers

Danger zone: Hints and high-level discussion / drawings encouraged! Code sharing is a no-no.



Using Generative AI

Official Department Stance:

- Modern Generative AI should be used responsibly in the classroom setting to get the most out of your education.
- Remember that generative AI like ChatGPT and GitHub Copilot will not always be helpful or available, like in job interviews, architecting large systems, and in validating any code that it produces
- As such, you will still need to deeply understand the foundations of computing and should use it in your coursework sparingly
- Never use these tools to avoid learning, but do use them to augment, amplify, or speed up (your) learning.

Using Generative AI

Some good guidelines for use:

- Generating docstrings and type hints
- Getting examples / explanations for language mechanics / syntax (e.g., how to do dictionary-comprehension)
- Interpreting error messages
- Generating unit tests for edge cases
- Brainstorming new ideas for apps or app names
- Some good links with guidelines and limitations:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k59FJ3NzD7s>
 - https://medium.com/@jolson_codes/5-lesson-plan-ideas-that-use-chatgpt-76d2fb18200e

Academic Dishonesty

Not just punitive: we want you to be a strong, individual, computer scientist!

- **Copying Code from *ANY* other source and claiming it as your own is dishonest and damaging to your future as a strong individual**
- **Your code has your fingerprint: if it's not yours, we'll know**

/Applications/MOSS/Midterm_Exam/submissions/F.java

```
import java.util.Scanner;

public class MultiplicationTable {
    public static void main(String[] args) {

        // the Scanner class to read the user's input.
        Scanner input = new Scanner(System.in);
        // the while loop to read user's input
        int num = 0;
        while (num <= 1 || num >= 12){
            System.out.println("Please enter a number between 1 and 12;");
            num = input.nextInt();
            // its not in the range, it return to top
            if (num > 1 || num < 12){
                continue;
            }
            // if it's in the range, it will stop and print bottom
            else if (num <= 1 || num <= 12){
                break;
            }
        }
        // for loop to produce and display the multiplication table.
        System.out.println("The multiplication table of " + num + "is");
        for (int i = 0; i <13; i++) {
            System.out.println(num + " x " + i + " = " + num * i);
        }
    }
}
```

/Applications/MOSS/Midterm_Exam/submissions/J.java

```
import java.util.Scanner;

public class MultiplicationTable {
    public static void main(String[] args) {

        Scanner input = new Scanner(System.in);
        int multi = 0;
        while (multi <= 1 || multi >= 12){
            System.out.println("Please enter a number between 1 and 12;");
            multi = input.nextInt();

            if (multi > 1 || multi < 12){
                continue;
            }
            else if (multi <= 1 || multi <= 12){
                break;
            }
        }
        System.out.println("The multiplication table of " + multi + "is");
        for (int i = 0; i <13; i++) {
            System.out.println(multi + " x " + i + " = " + multi * i);
        }
    }
}
```

Summary

Keep your eye on the prize: to become a strong individual who can also work in teams!

- CMSI is a collaborative field, but make sure you remember that your education and your degree will be yours, alone!
- Practice self-empowerment – try to solve problems yourself first, and then if you get stuck, you'll find tons of support from your instructors and TAs!
- College is tough: you might be tempted to copy code just to finish an assignment, but just come talk to us first if you feel the pressure!
- No matter what your background, if you want to study computer science, you belong at LMU and you belong in this department.