



Your Word

“As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

MSU’s Honor Code

In 2007 Mississippi State University became the first public university in Mississippi to adopt an Honor Code. The code was created to have a positive impact on the academic ethos of the university.

MSU’s Honor Code includes a statement that was adapted from the Code of Academic Integrity at the University of Maryland-College Park that sets forth the sense of community responsibility that we should all have in promoting academic integrity and deterring academic dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty is a corrosive force in the academic life of a university. It jeopardizes the quality of education and depreciates the genuine achievements of others. It is, without reservation, a responsibility of all members of the Mississippi State University community to actively deter it. Apathy or acquiescence in the presence of academic dishonesty is not a neutral act -- failure to confront and deter it will reinforce, perpetuate, and enlarge the scope of such misconduct.

From the very beginning, the MSU Honor Code was intended to be far more than a set of policies and procedures on how the university deals with those who cheat. The goal was to promote academic integrity across the campus by raising the awareness of our students and faculty. Students need to understand the expectations regarding honesty in all forms of academic work, and why that is so important. Faculty members are the most important members of the university community in articulating why honesty and integrity are the standard in every academic discipline. The Honor Code is intended to enable and support our faculty in meeting this goal.

We hope you will find this newsletter a valuable resource as we all work together to promote the highest levels of integrity within our academic community.

Sincerely,

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Vice President for Student Affairs



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Definitions of Academic Misconduct:

Taken directly from the Honor Code Policy.

Cheating: Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise.

Complicity: Intentionally or knowingly helping, or attempting to help, another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Fabrication: Making up data or results and recording or reporting them.

Honor Code Statistics 2007-2009

Mississippi State University implemented a student Honor Code that went into effect in Fall 2007. For the previous 17 years, an average 50 students per year had been reported for academic dishonesty. One hundred fifty five students

were reported during the first year of the Honor Code and two hundred and twelve students were reported during the second year. The following charts provide descriptive statistics of the first two years of the Honor Code's operation.

| Academic Dishonesty Cases Adjudicated | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------|
| | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | Total | % |
| Students Reported | 155 | 212* | 367 | |
| Adjudicated by Instructor | 103 | 109 | 212 | 59% |
| Adjudicated by Honor Code Council | 48 | 33 | 81 | 22% |
| Adjudicated by Honor Code Staff (Referred by instructor) | 4 | 66 | 70 | 19% |
| Graduate Committee | | 1 | 1 | |
| * Three (3) cases have yet to be adjudicated | | | | |
| Race and Gender | | | | |
| | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | Total | % |
| Students Reported | 155 | 212 | 367 | |
| Caucasian | 79 | 99 | 178 | 49% |
| African American | 58 | 94 | 152 | 41% |
| International | 16 | 19 | 35 | 10% |
| Other | 2 | 0 | 2 | |
| Male | 92 | 119 | 211 | 58% |
| Female | 63 | 93 | 156 | 42% |
| Classification | | | | |
| | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | Total | % |
| Students Reported | 155 | 212 | 367 | |
| Freshman | 43 | 48 | 91 | 25% |
| Sophomore | 31 | 41 | 72 | 20% |
| Junior | 30 | 41 | 71 | 20% |
| Senior | 33 | 59 | 92 | 25% |
| Graduate | 18 | 23 | 41 | 11% |
| <i>Note: Seniors make up 27% of the total student body</i> | | | | |

Falsification: Manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research or academic work is not accurately represented in the research or work record.

Multiple Submission: The submission of substantial portions of the same work (including oral reports) for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor of the class for which the student submits the work.

Plagiarism: The appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.

Violation of Departmental or College Rules: Students may not violate any announced departmental or college rule relating to academic matters including, but not limited to, abuse or misuse of computer access or information in any academic exercise.

| College/School | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------|
| | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | Total | |
| Students Reported | 155 | 212 | 367 | |
| Engineering | 33 | 45 | 78 | |
| Arts & Sciences | 30 | 60 | 90 | |
| Education | 33 | 47 | 80 | |
| Business | 15 | 24 | 39 | |
| Academic Affairs | 17 | 15 | 32 | |
| Forest Resources | 7 | 2 | 9 | |
| Architecture, Art & Design | 5 | 8 | 13 | |
| Agriculture & Life Sciences | 15 | 11 | 26 | |
| <i>A&S, ED, and ENG reported 68% of all cases for the two years</i> | | | | |
| Types of Academic Dishonesty | | | | |
| | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | Total | % |
| Students Reported | 155 | 212 | 367 | |
| Plagiarism | 85 | 120 | 205 | 56% |
| Cheating | 46 | 76 | 122 | 33% |
| Complicity | 10 | 6 | 16 | 4% |
| Multiple submission | 2 | 6 | 8 | 2% |
| Other | 12 | 4 | 16 | 4% |
| <i>Plagiarism and cheating comprise almost 90% of all types of dishonesty cases</i> | | | | |
| Sanctions Issued for Academic Dishonesty | | | | |
| | 2007-2008 | 2008-2009 | Total | % |
| Students Reported | 155 | 212 | 367 | |
| 0 on assignment | 71 | 71 | 142 | 39% |
| XF sanction | 44 | 69 | 113 | 31% |
| Grade reduction | 16 | 38 | 54 | 15% |
| F in course | 7 | 0 | 7 | 2% |
| Suspension | 5 | 3 | 8 | 2% |
| Other | 8 | 6 | 14 | 4% |
| Not responsible | 4 | 7 | 11 | 3% |
| Charges dismissed | 0 | 15 | 15 | 4% |
| Not yet adjudicated | 0 | 3 | 3 | |



Academic Integrity Workshops

Students must register for the Academic Integrity workshops by contacting Dr. Deborah Lee, dlee@library.msstate.edu or sign up on the library's Calendar of Events webpage: events.library.msstate.edu/advanced/lib/eventcalendar.asp. Students will be required to purchase Charles Lipson's book, *Doing Honest Work in College* (ISBN#978-0226484778), and read selections prior to the workshop.

Workshops will be held Tuesday, September 15; Monday, October 26; and Friday, November 13 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the IMC Presentation Room, located on the first floor of the Mitchell Memorial Library.

Notes on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is one of the most common forms of academic misconduct. Defined as the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit, the act of plagiarism is sometimes hard to fully understand. Below are several examples that can help to clarify some actions that might come into question:

- Intentionally, knowingly, or carelessly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper credit).
- Failing to credit sources used in a work product in an attempt to pass off the work as one's own.
- Attempting to receive credit for work performed by another, including papers obtained in whole or in part from individuals or other sources.
- The internet, data bases and other electronic resources must be cited if they are utilized in any way as resource material in an academic exercise.

Here are some basic guidelines for citing sources and avoiding plagiarism suspicions:

- Faculty members are responsible for identifying any specific style/format requirement for the course. Examples include, but are not limited to, American Psychological Association (APA) style and Modern Languages Association (MLA) style.
- **Direct Quotations:** Every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or appropriate indentation and must be properly acknowledged in the text by citation or in a footnote or endnote.
- **Paraphrasing:** Prompt acknowledgment is required when material from another source is paraphrased or summarized, in whole or in part, in one's own words. To acknowledge a paraphrase properly, one might state: "To paraphrase Locke's comment,..." and then conclude with a footnote or endnote identifying the exact reference.
- **Borrowed Facts:** Information gained in reading or research, which is not common knowledge, must be acknowledged.
- **Common Knowledge:** Common knowledge includes generally known facts such as the names of leaders of prominent nations, basic scientific laws, etc. Materials, which add only to a general understanding of the subject, may be acknowledged in the bibliography and need not be footnoted or endnoted.
- **Footnotes, Endnotes, and In-Text Citations:** One footnote, endnote, or in-text citation is usually enough to acknowledge indebtedness when a number of connected sentences are drawn from one source. When direct quotations are used, however, quotation marks must be inserted and acknowledgment made. Similarly, when a passage is paraphrased, acknowledgment is required.

