Basic Proceedings

The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance mandates both a usual and a minimum sanction in certain cases where a student is found guilty of violating the Honor Code. A “usual” sanction serves as a baseline from which the Court will begin its consideration. The usual sanction simply means that it is what usually happens.

Academic Dishonesty

All academic violations carry both a usual and a minimum sanction.

The usual sanction for a first-time academic offense is:

- One semester of Disciplinary Suspension from the University.
- A grade penalty of an “F” for the course, a portion of the course, or the assignment, as determined by the instructor.

The minimum sanction for a first-time academic offense is:

- One semester of Disciplinary Probation.
- A grade penalty of an “F” for the course, a portion of the course, or the assignment, as determined by the instructor.
- Additional educational assignments or other requirements as appropriate.
- Written Letter of Warning stating that any future academic misconduct will lead to more severe sanctions.

Staff

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Honor System Outreach Coordinator
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Contact Us

Locations

Office of the Honor System
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Office of Student Conduct
Student Academic Services Building North
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The Honor System is comprised of three branches

**Student Attorney General Staff**
Led by the Student Attorney General, this branch is responsible for all casework in the Honor System before, during and after the hearing.

**Honor Court**
Led by the Honor Court Chair, this branch is responsible for hearing and deciding accused students’ cases in the Honor Court hearing.

**Honor System Outreach**
Led by the Outreach Coordinator, this branch is responsible for educating the University community about the Honor System.

The Honor System adjudicates all alleged Honor Code violations involving students at the University. The Honor System is aided by the Office of the Dean of Students, which oversees the system and performs administrative functions related to the process.

**Basic Procedures**

1. **A potential violation is reported to the Honor System**
   The Student Attorney General (SAG) conducts a preliminary investigation. Both the reporting party and the referred student(s) receive email notification.

2. **Initial Meeting with the Student Attorney General or the Deputy Student Attorney General**
   The Student Attorney General (SAG) conducts a preliminary investigation. Both the reporting party and the referred student(s) receive email notification.

3. **Charge Decision**
   The SAG determines if there is a reasonable basis to charge the student with an Honor Code violation. The reporting party and student receive email notification of the Student Attorney General decision to charge or not.

4. **Preliminary Conference**
   If charged, the accused student meets with a managing associate to discuss his/her rights and plea options. Once the student has determined a plea, the managing associate contacts the reporting party to schedule the hearing. The managing associate assigns an investigator and defense counsel for each case.

5. **Hearing Preparation**
   The investigator works with the complainant to prepare evidence and testimony for the hearing. The defense counsel works with the accused student to prepare evidence and testimony in support of the student’s plea.

6. **Honor Court Hearing**
   The Honor Court reviews all evidence including witness testimony from the complainant and the accused student(s) and makes a determination on guilt or innocence. If the accused student is found guilty or pleads guilty, the Court will determine an appropriate sanction.

7. **Post-Hearing Meeting**
   The student meets with the Judicial Programs Officer (JPO) for a debriefing of the Honor System process. The JPO explains (if necessary) the sanctions imposed and the appeals process.

8. **Appeals Process**
   If a student wishes to appeal the Court’s decision, they must file an appeal petition within 5 business days of receiving a written summary of the Court’s rationale.