Graduate and Professional Honor System
Honor Code

The UNC Honor Code is founded on the core ideals of academic honesty, personal integrity, and responsible citizenship.

It is the responsibility of every student at UNC to:

1. Obey and support the enforcement of the Honor Code;
2. Refrain from lying, cheating, or stealing;
3. Conduct themselves so as not to impair significantly the welfare or the educational opportunities of others in the University community;
4. Refrain from conduct that impairs or may impair the capacity of University and associated personnel to perform their duties, manage resources, protect the safety and welfare of members of the University community, and maintain the integrity of the University.

From: The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance, Section II.A
Where and When Does the Honor Code Apply?

- **ALL** academic work, graded and ungraded
- Conduct on campus
- Conduct that occurs off campus when there is a University interest at stake (e.g., DWI in proximity to campus; conduct that occurs while student is representing the University)
- Application to graduation
Academic Honesty

Students are expected to support the principles of academic integrity and to refrain from all forms of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to:

- Plagiarism
- Unauthorized Collaboration
- Unauthorized Assistance
- Cheating (e.g., use of unauthorized materials on exams)

From: The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance, Section II.B
Plagiarism

- Plagiarism is defined as deliberate or reckless representation of another’s words, thoughts, or ideas as one’s own without attribution with submission of academic work, whether graded or otherwise.

- When you write a paper . . .
  - If you take words (always use quotation marks!), thoughts, or ideas from a source, you must CITE the source within your paper.
  - List EVERY source (including the internet, journal articles, and newspapers) in your bibliography or works cited page.

*If you look it up, write it down!*
Plagiarism

- Talk with your professors and instructors about proper citation methods and make sure you understand them well before your assignment is due.
- When in doubt . . . ASK!

Complete the plagiarism tutorial at www.lib.unc.edu/plagiarism/
Collaboration and Assistance

Collaboration means working with others to complete academic assignments.

When is collaboration or assistance allowed?

- Only when the professor says it is!
- Be sure you understand whether you are allowed to work with others on any graded work. It is your responsibility to know what is permitted.
- Don’t be afraid to ask your professors questions.
Faculty Expectations

- Faculty are obligated to report allegations of cheating to the Honor System.

- It is against University and Faculty Council policy for a professor to give a failing grade (or take other unilateral punitive action) rather than report conduct in suspected violation of the Honor Code.
Causes of Academic Misconduct

1. Lack of preparation

2. Not understanding and clarifying the instructor’s expectations

3. Poor time management

4. Stress-related issues

5. Sense of being overwhelmed
Conduct Offenses

Students are expected to refrain from conduct adversely affecting members of the University community or the University, including but not limited to:

- Illegally possessing drugs
- Driving while impaired
- Fighting
- Damaging or stealing property
- Lying to a University official
- Falsifying a University document
- Engaging in recklessly dangerous, disorderly, or obscene conduct

*From: The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance, Section II.C*
What Happens at Honor Court?

- Because we have a student-run system, an accused student is tried before a panel of peers in a closed hearing.

- Standard of Proof: *Beyond a Reasonable Doubt* (i.e., a doubt that is based upon reason and common sense after careful and impartial consideration of all evidence)

- If a student is found to have violated the Honor Code, the panel then determines the sanction.
Sanctions

- For academic dishonesty, the **usual sanction** is: (1) **suspension** from the University for one full academic semester; and (2) a **failing grade** in the course or on the assignment as recommended by the instructor.

- For academic dishonesty, the **minimum sanction** is: (1) **probation** for one full academic semester; (2) a **failing grade** in the course or on the assignment as recommended by the instructor; (3) an **additional education assignment** or other requirements as appropriate; and (4) a **written warning** that further academic misconduct will lead to more serious sanctions.

- For a **second** instance of academic dishonesty, the **minimum sanction** is suspension from the University for at least two full academic semesters.
Sanctions

- For conduct violations, there are a wide range of penalties that may be imposed by the Honor Court depending on the nature and gravity of the offense:
  - Definite or indefinite suspension
  - Definite or indefinite probation
  - Community service or other educational activities
  - Loss of University privileges

- For DUI cases, the usual sanction is suspension from the University for one full academic semester.
- For DUI cases, the minimum sanction is probation from the University for one full academic semester.
Sanctions

- Penalties of Record (i.e., expulsion, suspension, and probation) are reflected on a student’s academic transcript during the period they remain in effect and on a student’s disciplinary record for 10 years.
- A student may NOT graduate while a penalty of record is in effect.

- Probation involves the loss of privileges including but not limited to:
  - Participation on athletic teams (from varsity to intramural teams);
  - Attendance at campus events or sports activities;
  - Use of University facilities or resources;
  - Representation of the University; (publications, fellowships, research endeavors)
  - Receipt of special recognition or distinction.
Resources

- **The Writing Center**
  - [http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/](http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/)

- **Office of the Dean of Students**
  - [http://deanofstudents.unc.edu](http://deanofstudents.unc.edu)
  - 919-966-4042 or [dos@email.unc.edu](mailto:dos@email.unc.edu)

- **Professor and Teaching Assistants**
Questions? For More Information . . .

- [http://honor.unc.edu](http://honor.unc.edu)
- [http://instrument.unc.edu](http://instrument.unc.edu)

- Graduate and Professional Attorney General
  - Elizabeth Ireland, [eji@live.unc.edu](mailto:eji@live.unc.edu)

- Graduate and Professional Honor Court Chair
  - Mary Scott Kennedy, [mskenn@live.unc.edu](mailto:mskenn@live.unc.edu)

- Graduate and Professional Outreach Coordinator
  - Safa Sajadi, [sajadi@live.unc.edu](mailto:sajadi@live.unc.edu)