What is the Kansas State University Honor and Integrity System?

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The Evolution of the Honor and Integrity System at K-State

- Evolving from a task force created by Provost James Coffman, the “honor system” was implemented in the fall semester of 1999 and was designed to “foster a culture of personal responsibility and honor at K-State, which would lead to a decrease in academic dishonesty” (http://www.k-state.edu/honor/honorsystem/evolution.htm).

- With this implementation, the Honor Pledge for Kansas State University was adopted. “On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work.” Although students may not be required to sign an honor pledge, the requirement to follow the pledge is implied.

- Although the honor pledge was originally only for undergraduate students, in February 2004, graduate students were brought under the umbrella of the Honor System.

- After the initiation of the University Honors Program in 2006, the Honor System changed its name to the Honor and Integrity System to help alleviate confusion between the two offices.
Components of the Honor and Integrity System

- Constitution: Found in Appendix F of the University Handbook, the Constitution not only defines academic dishonesty but provides the guidelines for the purpose of the system, the role of the Honor Council, and the guidelines for the Investigation and Adjudication Procedures.

- Investigation and Adjudication Procedures (I&A Procedures): Formerly the Honor System Bylaws, the Investigation and Adjudication Procedures outline the procedures for administering the Honor and Integrity System. The I&A Procedures outline how violations are reported, investigated, adjudicated, and sanctioned.

- As stated in the Constitution, amendments to either document must be approved by Faculty Senate, Student Senate, Graduate Student Senate, and the Provost.
The Honor Council

- The Honor Council is a group of 54 individuals comprised by the stipulations in Article II of the Honor System Constitution ([http://www.k-state.edu/academicpersonnel/fhbook/fhxf.html](http://www.k-state.edu/academicpersonnel/fhbook/fhxf.html)). Representatives from each college as well as members at large are included in this group.

- The roles of the Honor Council members are to:
  - Promote the Honor and Integrity System to the Campus Community.
  - Advise students and faculty who report violations.
  - Serve as neutral investigators of alleged violations.
  - Serve as panel members during an honor pledge hearing to determine if a student is or is not responsible for an honor pledge violation.
Student Development Perspective

- The K-State Honor and Integrity System places a great deal of importance in the educational nature of the system. We continually recommend sanctions that are educational in nature, although they might also be punitive to the student.

- Based upon theories such as Kohlberg (1984), Chickering (1969), and Gilligan (1982), the Honor and Integrity System hopes that through education and holding students accountable to their decisions and actions, the students will continue to develop their own integrity.

- The goal of the Honor and Integrity system is to help students and faculty learn that each choice made affects a community (the class or the university as an entirety) and the rules and regulations that a community has are for the betterment of the community itself.
Common Terms

- **Alleged Violator(s) (AVs):** Person or persons alleged to have violated the Honor Pledge.

- **Case:** When a violation of the Honor Pledge is reported to the Director of the Honor & Integrity System, specific procedures go into play to resolve the issue. **Honor & Integrity System Investigation and Adjudication Procedure**

- **Case Review:** A meeting between the Associate Director and the AV in which the case report, as well as supporting documentation/information, is reviewed. In the case of an OPTION 1 report, the student determines whether or not to contest the allegations in the report. The AV may not contest the sanctions made by the Reporter. In the case of an OPTION 2 report, the AV acknowledges viewing the report and is given information about coming procedures. Students may ask for a HIPE advisor before coming to a Case Review.
Common Terms, Continued

- **Case Investigators (CIs):** Two Honor Council members, one faculty and one student, assigned to investigate the information in a case. CIs are chosen by the Director to meet individually (interview) with reporters, witnesses, and alleged violator(s) in the Honor & Integrity System office.

- **Development & Integrity (D&I) Course:** An educational sanction given by some faculty and some Honor Council Hearing Panels. Some students who have been sanctioned an XF on their transcripts also wish to take the course. The F denotes failure in a course and the X denotes "due to dishonesty" or an Honor Pledge violation. Successful completion of the course allows the X portion to be removed. The F physically remains on the transcript, however the course may be retaken for a grade which will be used in grade point average calculation.

- **HIPE Advisor (Honor & Integrity Peer Educator):** The educational component of the Honor & Integrity System. Its mission is two-fold: (1) educate the campus community—both faculty and students; and (2) serve as Advisors to students involved in the investigation and adjudication process.
Common Terms, Continued

- **Reporter(s):** Person or persons who report a violation of the Honor Pledge. Although a Reporter is usually a faculty member or a Graduate Teaching Assistant, students may also report unethical academic behavior to an instructor OR the Honor & Integrity System office. ANYONE interested in maintaining high K-State academic integrity may report.

- **Sanctions:** The standard sanction for an Honor Pledge violation is the assignment of an XF on the student’s transcript. If a sanction includes an XF, the Director contacts the Registrar’s office and authorizes the grade of XF when the Violator does not contest the allegation, or the case has been adjudicated, or the time period for contesting the violation has expired and the Violator has failed to contact the Director. Other sanctions can range from a warning, to reduced grade on assignment/exam, the enrollment in and successful completion of the Development & Integrity course, recommendation to suspend, and recommendation to expel. Hearing panels also assign community service in some instances.

- **XF:** The XF denotes failure in the course due to academic dishonesty – an Honor Pledge violation.
What is Next?

- Honor Pledge Violations in Online Learning
- Proactive Measures Against Violations in Your Online Class
- Confronting and Reporting a Violation
- Resources for Working with an Alleged Honor Pledge Violation