

Academic Integrity in the College of Engineering

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Presentation Scope

- Background and Purpose
- Honor Council Responsibilities
- Process and Procedures
 - Honor Council
 - Faculty Committee on Discipline
 - College Faculty
- Contact Information

Background

- Honor Code proposed by students in 1915 and adopted by faculty in 1916
- Since the Code's inception, it has been a unique feature of the College
- The Code now serves as a Canon of Ethics for Engineers

Purpose of the Code

- “By conforming to the Code, students do their work in an environment conducive to establishing high standards of personal integrity, professional ethics, and mutual respect.” – College of Eng. Bulletin
- Students are then trusted by:
 - Other students
 - Faculty (here and abroad)
 - Industry

The Honor Pledge

- “I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this examination, nor have I concealed a violation of the Honor Code.”
- Used to remind students of the Code on every examination
 - Note: “unauthorized” was recently added in order to account for formula sheets and note cards
- “Active” proctoring is not allowed

Honor Council Responsibilities

- Investigate and gather all relevant information to the accusation in a timely manner
 - Less than four weeks
- Respect student confidentiality rights
- “Filter” out innocent students so faculty does not have to see them
- Analyze each case from a student’s viewpoint
 - HC members are students in the College
- Coordinate community education about the honor code

Honor Council Procedures

- Investigator meets with all students and faculty involved to investigate the accusation
- Investigator presents the case before the council with accused student in attendance
- The case is discussed amongst the council members
- A verdict is voted on and, if necessary, a punishment
- A recommendation is drawn up for the Faculty Committee on Discipline

Faculty Committee on Discipline

- Faculty members are from broad range of departments
- Each member has a four-year term
- The FCD questions students involved in a separate hearing attended by Honor Council investigator
- FCD forwards final decision about each student to the dean's office & professor/GSI

[Suspected Violation?]

Create a Formal Accusation



Accusation processed and sent to Honor Council



Honor Council assigns an investigator



Honor Council Procedures carried out



FCD makes final decision

[Contact Information]

- Honor Council President
 - Joshua Jackson, joshjack@umich.edu
- HC Administrative Secretary
 - Kathleen Vargo, kmvargo@umich.edu
- FCD Chairman
 - Kevin Compton, kjc@umich.edu
- Honor Council Questions
 - enghonor@umich.edu

Summary

- Honor Code has a long history at U-M
- The Code helps foster high moral standards with students
- If you feel a violation has occurred:
 - Please, do not handle it yourself, report the violation to Kathleen Vargo
 - Respect student confidentiality
- Violations and confusion can be avoided with a clear course policy
- If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask anyone listed in the previous slide

Questions?