

The Experience of Georgetown University: Academic Integrity on the Hilltop and the Evolution of the Honor System and the Honor Council

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Are we more than the sum of our parts?

Academic Integrity
and “Wholeness”

Community and
the Role of the
Honor Council

The Completeness
of Processes

The Sum Total of
Outcomes



Cura Personalis

- A Latin phrase meaning “care for the entire person”
- A characteristic of Jesuit education and mentoring
- Important in far more than an academic situations



**“Integrity” (from the Latin, literally “un-
touched” and therefore “undivided” or
“whole”)**

**•Academic Integrity is “a commitment, even in
the face of adversity, to six fundamental
values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect,
responsibility, and courage. From these values
flow principles of behavior that enable
academic communities to translate ideals to
action.”** <http://www.academicintegrity.org/ica/resources-2.php>



"I must do something" always solves more problems than "Something must be done."

-- Author Unknown

(all quotes from the ICAI 's "Resources" page)



2016-2017 – our 21st Year

- One undergraduate student (from the Business School) who was not satisfied with the *status quo*
- Two faculty (from Theology)
- Year 1 and 2: Self-examination, and talk and more talk
- Year 3: Involvement of more faculty, more students, and finally the administration
- 1995-6 first year of the Honor System and the Honor Council
- A really good start with only few but very important changes over 20+ years



2016-2017 – our 21st Year

*** Changes since 1996-1997 (Year #1) ***

- **2001-2002: Implementation of the Sanction Reduction Program**
- **2003-2004: Addition of an expedited process to complement adjudication**
- **2003-2004: Clarification of “student status” with respect to the Honor System**
- **2011-2012: Introduction of a 6th sanction (permanent transcript notation)**



Few things help an individual more than to place responsibility upon him, and to let him know that you trust him.

-- Booker T. Washington



Georgetown Honor Pledge

- ❖ In pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life
 - ❖ I commit myself to respect and to uphold the Georgetown University Honor System;
 - ❖ To be honest in every academic endeavor;
 - ❖ And to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community as we live and work together.



- The Honor Council “assemblies” reflect the community as an extension of the “whole person”**
- Faculty (~ 25% have served on HC)**
 - Students (60+ annually)**
 - Deans, and their representatives**



*It is easy to ignore responsibility
when one is only an intermediate
link in a chain of action.*

-- Stanley Milgram



The Mission of the Honor Council

- First, to educate
- Then, to adjudicate as necessary



Education Efforts – “Outreach”

- To faculty (classrooms, syllabi, letters from provost, deans)
- To students: residence halls, tutorial
- For all: public lectures and conferences



Georgetown's 3rd *Scholarly Research and Academic Integrity Tutorial*

- **Required since 2003**
- **In 2016-2017, only 22 of 1570 have not completed it (as of 10/17)**





Scholarly Research and Academic Integrity Tutorial

Georgetown University
2016



Welcome to Georgetown

Georgetown provides you the opportunity to contribute your unique voice to the scholarly conversation. Knowing about library services that make research and writing more effective and productive means that you can concentrate on cultivating your voice. You'll find the best sources and know how to organize them.

In addition, this tutorial will review plagiarism, cheating, unauthorized collaboration/group work, re-using old work (self-plagiarism), and other academic integrity issues. You'll learn how the Honor Council works and what happens if students violate the Honor System.

With the right tools and strategies, you can avoid the consequences of academic dishonesty.



< PREV

NEXT >



When adjudication is necessary:

- “Expedited” or “Hearing”
- Processes reflect *cura personalis*
 - Fairness
 - Consistency
 - Community Standard and Ownership



Six (6) sanctions:

- Better to match penalty with violation
- Consider *cura personalis*
- Not ineffectual or “coddling”
- May allow for redemption



*I never had a policy; I have just
tried to do my very best each
and every day.*

-- Abraham Lincoln



Sanction Reduction (“SR”)

- For low-mid level situations
- Behavior was not premeditated nor inherently dishonest
- SR allows the student to address and correct what may have caused a violation of the community standard



Sanction Reduction (“SR”) requires a student-created proposal, including

- **Presentation of the proposal to the SR Board and carrying out the proposal within about 6 months**
- **Formal or informal apology to the professor and IO**
- **Community service (25 or 30 hours)**
- **Two (2) components that help develop a student’s reflection (must be very different)**
- **Five Page Reflection**
- **Seminar**



Sanction “Reduction” means

- A lower sanction but not for two years (no exceptions)
- An ability to acknowledge that one is not perfect but deserves another chance (not in every situation)
- A full restoration of the student in the eyes of the community.



The mission is the sum of our parts:

- **Consideration of and for the individual student**
- **Regard for the entire academic community**
- **Attention to process**
- **Outcomes beyond the “code”**



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