

PART 1: THE HONOR CODE

ARTICLE I. Preamble and Purpose

The purpose of this Graduate Honor Code (hereinafter the “Code” or the “Honor Code”) is to set forth expectations for student conduct with respect to academic pursuits.

The Code applies to all students enrolled in the Wake Forest University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences or the Divinity School of Wake Forest University. All forms of academic work performed by any Graduate or Divinity student enrolled on a part-time or full-time basis shall be subject to the stipulations of the Honor Code. Such work includes, but is not limited to, course work, lab work, thesis or dissertation work, research, and teaching. Upon acceptance for admission to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences or the Divinity School, entering students will be informed of the Code. It is the responsibility of all students to be adequately informed of the Code, including all key provisions, such as, but not limited to, the affirmative duty to report offenses and the scope and limits of the Honor Code. New students shall be required to sign a statement indicating that they fully understand and will comply with the Honor Code throughout their enrollment. Changes in the Honor Code will be published and distributed to students upon adoption. Students are charged with notice of, and are bound by, this Code. Copies of the Code are available from the offices of the Dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and the Dean of the Divinity School. For students in the Graduate School, final decisions on sanctions due to violations of the Code rest with the Dean of the Graduate School. For students in the Divinity School, final decisions on sanctions due to violations of the Code rest with the Dean of the Divinity School.

The Code applies only to alleged academic misconduct identified in Article III or Article IV which occurs in academic pursuits or within the University community. Policies pertaining to other misconduct within the University community continue to apply, including, but not limited to, the University’s Student Code of Conduct, and the faculty and the administrations of the appropriate graduate program are responsible for enforcement of such other policies (See Article IX for a definition of “appropriate”).

ARTICLE II. The Code

We conduct our academic endeavors with honor, integrity, and professionalism. We do our own work, credit the work of others, and provide the full truth about our work.

ARTICLE III. Scope and Jurisdiction

Section 1. Honor Council Original Jurisdiction

The Graduate School Honor Council (hereinafter the “Honor Council”) shall have authority to hear and to determine charges of cheating, deception, [research misconduct](#), or failure to report an Honor Code violation by any Graduate School or Divinity School student in their academic pursuits. These terms should be construed to have their ordinary, non-legal meaning.

Reports of alleged research misconduct will be reviewed and addressed in accordance with the standards, expectations, and procedures set forth in the relevant research misconduct policy for the Reynolda Campus, and the Biomedical Campus, as appropriate. Students found responsible for violating the relevant research misconduct policy under the research misconduct procedures may also be subject to additional sanctions under this Honor Code.

Plagiarism and Deception

“**PLAGIARISM**” is a type of cheating. It includes: (a) the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without complete acknowledgment of the source; (b) the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another agency or person providing term papers or other academic materials; (c) the non-attributed use of any portion of a computer algorithm or data file; or (d) the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of online material without complete acknowledgment of the source.

Please refer to the Harvard University online tutorial on avoiding plagiarism:

<https://www.extension.harvard.edu/resources-policies/resources/avoiding-plagiarism>

“**DECEPTION**” includes any false or deceiving representation. In the academic context, such representations include: (a) any attempt to avoid meeting the stated course requirements, such as making false statements to avoid taking examinations at the scheduled times or to avoid turning in assignments at the scheduled times; (b) listing sources in a bibliography not directly used in the academic exercise; or (c) submitting falsified, invented, or fictitious data or evidence, or concealing or distorting the true nature, origin, or function of data or evidence.

Section 2. Faculty Retention of Jurisdiction

All disputes will be handled by the Honor Council. When a dispute arises between academic terms, all processes would be initiated on the first day of the term after the report.

ARTICLE IV. Duty to Report an Honor Code Violation

A student, faculty member or staff member that reports an Honor Code violation is referred to as the Reporter. The individual accused of an Honor Code violation is referred to as the Respondent.

Any faculty or staff member may report an Honor Code violation or suspected violation to the Chairperson or Secretary of the Honor Council or, in the event such persons cannot be reached, to the Dean of the Graduate School or Divinity School as appropriate. The Chairperson or Secretary should inform the relevant Dean that a violation has been reported.

Students who have knowledge of, have witnessed or reasonably believe that they have witnessed or have knowledge of an Honor Code violation must report the violation or suspected violation to the Chairperson or the Secretary of the Honor Council within a reasonable time, not to exceed five academic days (as defined in Article IX). This report should include the name of the Reporter and the Respondent, the date on which the report is submitted, the date of the violation of the Code, the charge and the description of the purported

violations, and the names of other witnesses. If the Chairperson or Secretary cannot be reached to make a report, then the student should report to the appropriate Dean or their designee. The report may also be filed at a later date if the Dean (or designee) or the Chairperson determines that special circumstances existed that prevented the report from being filed within the five-day time period.

The failure of any student to comply with this affirmative duty to report (except in the circumstances referred to above) shall be a violation of the Code. Refusal to testify before the Honor Council, or failure to do so without good cause, is also a violation of the Code. Any students accused of an Honor Code violation may choose not to participate in the conduct process; however, the Honor Council will resolve the case without the student's participation. The student's choice not to attend or actively participate in any part of the process is not a valid reason for an appeal.

ARTICLE V. Organization of Honor Council

Section 1. Membership and Election

The membership and election of the Honor Council shall be determined as follows:

- a. The Honor Council shall be comprised of sixteen (16) faculty members, eight (8) each from the Bowman Gray and Reynolda campuses and one (1) student from each department or program.
- b. Faculty members of the Honor Council will be appointed by the Dean. Appointments are effective September 15th of each calendar year. Members of the Graduate Council may not be appointed to the Honor Council.
- c. Student members of the Honor Council are appointed by the chair or program director of each department or program, one (1) from each department or program. Appointments are effective September 15th of each calendar year. Graduate Student Association chairs and Graduate Council representatives may not be appointed to the Honor Council.
- d. A student appointed to the Honor Council serves a one-year term. A faculty person appointed to the Honor Council serves a two-year term. Students and faculty may be appointed for up to three consecutive terms.

Section 2. Election of Officers

After appointment of new members, the Honor Council shall elect one (1) faculty member to serve as Chairperson and one (1) faculty person to serve as Secretary through September 14th of the following calendar year. The Chair and the Secretary shall not be from the same department.

Section 3. Pre-hearing Sub-committee Selection

The Pre-hearing Sub-committee will consist of the Chairperson, the Secretary, one (1) faculty member of the Honor Council and two (2) student members of the Honor Council. The Chairman and Secretary will choose these three members, ensuring as equal a representation of the two campuses as possible and ensuring that the members to do not come from the same department or program as the Reporter or the Respondent. A faculty member of the Honor Council shall act as Solicitor.

Section 4. Hearing Panel Selection

The Panel will be comprised of the four (4) faculty members and four (4) student members of the Honor Council chosen by the Chairperson and the Secretary. The faculty members and students will be chosen to ensure as equal a representation between the two campuses as possible and to ensure that no member of the Panel is from the same department or program as the Reporter and the Respondent. To assure fairness to the Respondent and to equalize the burden of members of the Honor Council, ordinarily members chosen to serve

on a panel will be removed from the pool for the remainder of the calendar year, unless all council members have served, at which time all members will be returned to the list of potential panelists.

Section 5. Maintaining Readiness

Members of the Honor Council accept the duty of developing and maintaining their understanding of the Honor Code.

PART 2: THE HONOR HEARING, SANCTIONS HEARING, AND APPEALS PROCEDURES

ARTICLE VI. Pre-Honor Hearing Procedures

When a report of an Honor Code violation or suspected violation is received, the Chairperson of the Honor Council shall convene, in a timely manner, a Pre-hearing Subcommittee composed of the Chairperson, the Secretary, one (1) faculty member from the Honor Council, and two (2) students from the Honor Council. Members of the Pre-hearing Subcommittee may not be from the same department as the Reporter or Respondent; if the Chairperson or the Secretary is from the Reporter or Respondent’s department, a member of the Honor Council will be asked to serve in that person’s role for the pre-hearing and hearing procedures for the particular case. The Subcommittee will consider the report and make a decision as to whether the accusation falls under the prohibited conduct described in Article III, Section 1. If it does not, this decision will be conveyed promptly in writing by the Secretary to the Reporter, the Dean or their designee, and the Chairperson. No further action will be taken. The Chairperson will destroy the report and any accompanying records.

If the Pre-hearing Subcommittee determines that the accusation does include an act or acts that may constitute a violation of the Honor Code, then a written report of the violation(s) as charged shall be prepared by the Secretary and provided to the Respondent with copies to the Reporter, the Dean or their designee, the members of the Pre-hearing Subcommittee, the Respondent’s Academic Advisor, and the Respondent’s Program Director.

This written report shall include the date, time and place of a hearing that should take place within four weeks from the date of notification. The report shall contain a full description of the Respondent’s Honor Hearing rights.

ARTICLE VII. Honor Hearing Procedures

Section 1. Name and Purpose

The Honor Hearing will be an administrative, not a legal, proceeding. Its purpose is to arrive at the truth.

Section 2. Honor Hearing Procedures

The Panel for the Honor Hearing will consist of the Chairperson, the Secretary and four (4) additional faculty members and four (4) student members of the Honor Council with the numbers of student and faculty members from the two campuses being as similar as possible. The Chairperson shall appoint one of the faculty members as Solicitor who will coordinate the exchange of information between the Respondent and the student and faculty members of the Honor Council before and at the Hearing. The Honor Hearing shall be conducted by the Chairperson (who will not vote). The Secretary of the Honor Council shall not vote except in the case of a tie. The Solicitor does not vote.

Section 3. Time and Place of Honor Hearing

The Honor Council should conduct its Honor Hearing within four weeks after the Chairperson's receipt of the Pre- Honor Hearing Subcommittee's conclusion that such a Honor Hearing is warranted. The time and/or place of the Honor Council Hearing maybe changed by a majority vote of the members of the Panel. Such voting may occur electronically. The Solicitor and the Respondent shall meet, virtually or in person, no less than a week prior to the Hearing to exchange witness lists and clarify the kinds of evidence to be presented. If a witness(es) is (are) to be involved at the Honor Hearing, this should be mentioned at this meeting; a "witness" is someone who viewed or otherwise acquired information relevant to the alleged Honor Code violation. At that time, the Respondent will also notify the Solicitor if they will have a representative (as defined in Article VII) for the Hearing. The Honor Hearing shall be closed to the public. The Reporter will not attend or otherwise participate in the hearing unless they are called to be a witness.

The Chairperson and the Secretary shall make the selection of the Panel no later than a week before the beginning of the Honor Hearing. Panel members shall not be from the same department as the Respondent or the Reporter. The members of the Panel will be supplied with the report against the Respondent when they are notified of their selection for the Panel. Should the Chairperson or the Secretary be unable to attend an Honor Hearing or if the Chairperson and/or Secretary are from the same department as the Reporter or Respondent, the Panel shall select an appropriate member of the Honor Council to serve in the Chairperson's or Secretary's role for the duration of the Honor Hearing.

Should any member of the Panel conclude, upon reviewing the report and learning the identity of the Respondent, that he or she cannot render an impartial decision, then they shall notify the Chairperson and withdraw. In the event of a withdrawal, a new Panel member will be chosen by the Chairperson. In the case that an original Panel member is unexpectedly unable to attend the Hearing, the Chairperson may choose a new Panel member.

The Secretary of the Honor Council will take minutes of the Honor Hearing. An audio recording, video recording, or comparable recording will be made of the Honor Hearing. This recording will be available to the Panel during their deliberations, to the Secretary in preparing the minutes, to the appropriate Dean or designee for review of the Sanction or during the appeals process, and to the Respondent if they request an appeal. The recording will become a part of the file to be kept by the Dean or designee.

Section 4. Chairperson's Duties

1. The Chairperson of the Honor Council shall preside at all Honor Council meetings and Honor Hearings.
2. The Chairperson may require any person disrupting the orderly proceedings of an Honor Hearing to leave the meeting.
3. The Chairperson shall have the right to declare a recess at any point in the Honor Hearing.
4. The Chairperson shall inform the Panel and all others present at the Honor Hearing that they shall not divulge any information about the accusation or the Hearing.
5. The Chairperson shall appoint a faculty member serving on the Honor Council to serve as the Solicitor for each Honor Hearing.
6. The Chairperson shall limit evidence as described in Section 7 of the Policy.

Section 5. Secretary's Duties

1. The Secretary of the Honor Council will notify in writing the Chairperson, the Dean of the Graduate School or Dean of the Divinity School, or their designees and the Reporter of the Pre-hearing Subcommittee's decision about whether an alleged offense or offenses falls within the Honor Code's prohibited conduct.
2. The Secretary will provide to the Respondent a written report of the alleged offense(s); the time, date and place of the Honor Hearing; and the rights of the Respondent within 48 hours after the Pre-hearing Subcommittee finds that an allegation or allegations does fall within the Honor Code's prohibited conduct. Copies of this written report will also be given to the Chairperson, the Reporter, and the Dean, or their designee, the members of the Pre-hearing Subcommittee, the Respondent's Academic Advisor, and the Respondent's Program Director.
3. The Secretary will take minutes of the Honor Hearing and will obtain a video, audio, or transcript record of the Honor Hearing, for consideration by the Graduate Council, if an Appeal Hearing is conducted.
4. The Secretary will cast the deciding vote in the case of a tie vote in the Honor Hearing and in the Sanctions Hearing.

Section 6. Solicitor's Duties

1. The Solicitor will coordinate the exchange of information between the Respondent and the members of the Honor Hearing.
2. The Solicitor will begin questioning the Respondent and any witnesses, including the Reporter, as appropriate.

Section 7. Conduct of the Honor Hearing

The Chairperson shall call the Honor Hearing to order by reminding the Respondent and all witnesses that they are honor bound to tell the truth before the Council. Any witness who is not bound by the Honor Code will be asked to affirm a statement of honesty before providing testimony. The Honor Council will create and maintain an appropriate affirmation.

The Honor Hearing shall be limited in scope to a determination of whether an Honor Code violation has taken place. All sources of evidence that may reasonably be supplied and are likely to be helpful in establishing the veracity of the claim should be brought to such a hearing, with materials being distributed by the secretary beforehand to the Solicitor, the Respondent, and the student and faculty members of the Honor Council. The Chairperson shall have the authority to limit evidence (in any form) that, in the opinion of the Chairperson, has no relevance to the issues in the matter or is redundant.

The Secretary shall read the written report to the Panel. If the Respondent admits to the charge(s) and stipulates to the facts as written in the report, then the Panel will only consider the question of sanctions, in a Sanctions Hearing.

If the Respondent does not admit to the charges, presentation of evidence and questioning will begin. Any other witnesses, including the Reporter, shall be questioned by the Solicitor regarding the

charge(s). At the conclusion of the questioning of each witness called by the Solicitor, the Secretary and each member of the Panel shall be given the opportunity to ask questions. Then, the Respondent or a representative chosen by the Respondent may ask additional questions. Questioning shall proceed until all parties are satisfied that, or in the opinion of the Chairperson, the witnesses can furnish no further relevant information.

Section 8. The Respondent's Rebuttal

At the conclusion of the evidence in support of the charges, the Respondent or the Respondent's representative may present evidence, including witness testimony, rebutting the charges of an Honor Code violation. At the conclusion of the testimony of each witness called by the Respondent, the Solicitor, the Secretary and each member of the Panel shall be given the opportunity to ask questions. Questioning shall proceed until all parties are satisfied that, or in the opinion of the Chairperson, the witnesses can furnish no further relevant information.

Section 9. Summary Statements

A summary statement may be given by the Respondent or the Respondent's representative. A summary statement may be given by the Solicitor.

Section 10. Panel Duties

The Chairperson shall instruct the Panel as to the charge and the factors to be considered during the deliberation on the charge(s). Upon the conclusion of such instructions the Chairperson shall adjourn this phase of the Hearing. The Panel shall promptly conduct its deliberations in private and reach a decision on the charge(s).

A decision that a violation of the Code has occurred shall require a simple majority vote by the Panel that the charge(s) have been proven by a preponderance of the evidence. In the case of a tie, the Secretary shall vote. In determining whether there was a violation of the Code, the Panel should only consider evidence and testimony that was presented at the Hearing, including the Secretary's written report.

Upon reaching their decision, the Panel shall inform the Chairperson in writing. The decision shall then be reported by the Chairperson to the Respondent in a timely manner. The Chairperson will then dismiss the Panel by reminding each member that they are not permitted to divulge any information about the Honor Hearing.

Section 11. The Sanction Hearing

If the Panel finds that there was a violation of the Code, the Chairperson shall reconvene the Panel for a Sanction Hearing, providing the Respondent with the opportunity to be present. This hearing, which will be private, may be held directly following the Honor Hearing and should take place within five academic days. First, the Solicitor may present facts, evidence, and arguments as to the sanction(s) being sought.

Second, the Respondent or the Respondent's representative may present mitigating facts, evidence, and arguments. At the conclusion of the arguments the Chairperson shall adjourn the Panel to deliberate regarding the sanctions to be recommended. The Panel shall promptly conduct its deliberations in private and shall reach a decision.

Decisions regarding a particular sanction shall require a simple majority vote in favor of the sanction. In the case of a tie, the Secretary shall vote. A panel must recommend a sanction, that is, they cannot recommend that no sanction be imposed. Once a decision as to a particular sanction is reached, the Panel shall announce its recommended sanction to the Chairperson. Before releasing the Panel, the Chairperson shall remind the members of the Panel that they are not permitted to divulge information about the Sanctions Hearing or the Panel's recommended decision.

Section 12. Notifications of Findings

The Panel's findings and recommended sanction(s) shall be promptly conveyed to the Respondent by the Chairperson of the Honor Council. The findings and recommended sanction(s) shall be reported to the Dean or their designee in a timely manner. All copies of the record, findings and recommendations shall be transferred to the Dean or designee for retention in accordance with applicable Graduate School or Divinity School policies, and for a final decision in accordance with Section 14 of this Code.

Section 13. Appeals Procedure

A student found in violation of the Honor Code may only appeal the decision or the sanction recommendation of the Panel to the Secretary of the Graduate Council in instances where the student believes that they have not received fair hearing, either because of an irregularity in how the hearing was conducted or due to a possible conflict of the faculty or student representation on the Honor Council or due to relevant new evidence that was not available at the time of the hearing that could affect the outcome. Written notice of appeal from the Respondent or their representative shall be sent or given to the Secretary of the Graduate Council within 10 academic days after the Sanction Hearing. If a student does not appeal the Honor Council's finding(s) and recommended sanction(s) within 10 academic days after the Sanction Hearing, the decisions of the Honor Council shall become final.

The Graduate Council consists of 6 elected faculty members from the Reynolda campus, 6 elected faculty members from the Bowman Gray campus and two Graduate Student Representatives. The Dean and Associate Deans of the Graduate school are ex-officio members of the Graduate Council and will not take part in the appeals procedure. The Dean of the Divinity School is not a member of the Graduate Council.

The Graduate Council will be provided with a copy of the written report of the charge, the summary records kept by the Honor Council Secretary during the hearing, the recording of the meeting (audio/video, see Section 3 above), the Honor Council's recommended sanction(s), and the written appeal of the Respondent. The Graduate Council will meet in a timely manner to consider the Honor Council's decision and the appropriateness of the recommended sanction. The Graduate Council will decide whether to support the findings and recommended sanctions of the Honor Council or whether to recommend changes. A written notice of their decision will be given to the Dean or designee by the Secretary of the Graduate Council in a timely manner.

Section 14. Final Disposition

The Dean or designee shall consider the findings and recommended sanction(s) of the Hearing Panel and the recommendations of the Graduate Council in the case of a Respondent's appeal, and any alleged exceptional circumstances, and shall decide to accept or alter either the findings and/or the recommended sanction(s). The office of the Dean, or their designee, shall be responsible for processing and supervising the imposition of sanction(s). In the case of ongoing "external" investigation of the Honor

Code violation, the Dean of the Graduate School, or their designee, may delay the final decision until formal findings are provided. The decision of the Dean or designee shall be final.

Section 15. Sanctions

In the event of a finding of an Honor Code violation, the Panel shall consider and recommend to the Dean or designee that one or more of the following sanctions be imposed. The Panel may recommend alternative sanctions not included in the following list if the Panel determines that alternative sanctions are appropriate, including but not limited to revocation of the degree. In the event of a question about the application or meaning of a sanction recommended by the Panel or imposed by a Dean, the Dean shall be consulted and the decision of the Dean shall be final.

The sanctions which may be imposed in the case of an Honor Code violation will ordinarily be selected from the following (more than one of the sanctions may be imposed when deemed appropriate):

- a. **Notice and Censure:** A written reprimand that continuation of conduct in violation of the Honor Code may be cause for more severe disciplinary sanctions. This may include a warning or more severe disciplinary sanction in the event of the determination of a subsequent violation within a stated period of time.
- b. **Restitution:** Reimbursement for defacement, damage to, or misappropriation of property, whether that of the University, any member of the University community, any guest or visitor of the University or any third party.
- c. **Suspension:** Exclusion from classes, removal from facilities and termination of any associated access rights (including but not limited to computers, computer networks, laboratories, identification cards, keys, libraries and parking), termination of faculty and staff mentoring and other privileges and activities (including but not limited to stipends and health insurance subsidies) with forfeitures of academic credits as set forth in the notice of suspension from the Dean or designee. Sanctions for the Honor Code violation of cheating shall ordinarily include a recommended F or failing grade in the course involved and authorized withdrawals in the student's other courses, regardless of the semester when the offense was committed. If a suspension is more than one semester, the suspension shall begin immediately and shall be served in consecutive semesters. Suspension does not extend the total allowable time for completion of the degree.
- d. **Expulsion:** Termination of student status, with readmission subject to the approval of the program faculty and the Dean or designee. No petition for readmission may be considered before the expiration of one calendar year from the date of expulsion. Sanctions for the Honor Code violation of cheating shall ordinarily include a recommended "F" or failing grade in the course involved and authorized withdrawals in the student's other courses, regardless of the time in the semester that the offense was committed.

ARTICLE VIII. Rights of the Respondent

The Respondent shall have the following rights:

1. A right to have the charges against them submitted in writing and to receive the written charges before the beginning of the Honor Hearing.
2. A right to a copy of procedures established by the Honor Code for the Honor Hearing of alleged

Honor Code violations. This shall be given to them at the same time as the notice of the charge(s).

3. A right to separate hearings where two or more students are reported to have participated jointly in a violation. If none of those accused of joint participation request separate hearings, they may have a joint hearing or separate hearings as the Pre- Hearing Sub-committee determines.
4. A right to know the nature of the evidence and, when practical, to examine the evidence before the Honor Hearing.
5. A right to appoint a Representative to question witnesses, to give a summary statement at the Hearing, and to be present at the Sanctions Hearing. The Representative will be a faculty member, staff member, or student from the Wake Forest University Graduate School. The Respondent may have one non-participating support person attend the hearing and advise the Respondent. The support person may be anyone the Respondent chooses, including legal counsel.
6. A right to present witnesses and to testify on their own behalf, but the number of character witnesses, if any, may be reasonably limited by the Chairperson of the Honor Council.
7. A right to meet with the witnesses, and to question them during the Honor Hearing, subject to limitation by the Chairperson of the Honor Council.
8. The right to choose not to participate in the conduct process.
9. A right to present evidence of extenuating circumstances, subject to limitation by the Chairperson of the Honor Council.
10. A right to a separate hearing for each alleged Honor Code violation prior to sanctioning, e.g., lying before the Council.
11. Until the Honor and Sanctions Hearings and Appeals processes are complete, the Respondent has the right to participate in any University function except the following: participating in graduation exercises, receiving a degree, or receiving academic credit for courses taken during the semester in which the violation is alleged to have occurred, or other activities specifically prohibited by the Dean or designee.

Article IX. Miscellaneous

“Dean” refers to the Dean charged with the primary responsibility for overseeing the program in which the Respondent is enrolled. An academic day is a day on which regularly scheduled classes are held, not including summer sessions.

Research misconduct is covered by the WFU Policy on [Research Misconduct](#).

While this policy is written for scientific research misconduct, for the purposes of this document, the policy applies to research misconduct in any field.

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