



EMORY
COLLEGE
OF ARTS AND
SCIENCES

EMORY COLLEGE HONOR COUNCIL INFORMATION FOR ACCUSED STUDENTS

This resource document for students who have been accused of academic misconduct. It contains frequently asked questions that help outline the purpose of the Honor Code, and how the Honor Council process is conducted.

While this document has been prepared to answer basic questions about the process, accused students are welcome to schedule an appointment with the Associate Director of the Honor Council, Ms. Blaire Wilson (blaire.wilson@emory.edu, or 404-727-8928) to ask follow up questions or share any concerns.

My professor has reported a possible violation to the Honor Council. What are the next steps?

Students are discouraged from speaking to their professors about allegations of academic dishonesty. Once a case has been reported, you are encouraged to continue speaking with your professor about academic matters, but you should not discuss the Honor Code case with him or her.

The Honor Council will contact you to inform you that a suspicion of misconduct has been reported. You are encouraged to make an appointment with the Associate Director (Ms. Blaire Wilson) who can answer general questions about the process before you meet with the Honor Council.

The Honor Council will schedule a preliminary meeting with you. At this initial meeting, an Honor Council member and a faculty advisor will inform you about the suspicion and give you the opportunity to examine the evidence. They will also listen to your account of the incident, ask you questions, and collect any evidence you may have. After this interview, the investigators may decide to dismiss your case or send it to a hearing. If your case is being submitted to a full hearing, the investigator will typically contact you within one week of this preliminary interview.

What if I don't respond to the investigator's request or decide not to attend a meeting?

The Honor Council makes every effort to accommodate the schedules of accused students. Students who are uncooperative by avoiding Honor Council e-mails or skipping meetings and hearings may lose the opportunity to participate fully in the process. Failure to respond to any requests or to attend any interview/hearing may result in the Honor Council proceeding with the case without you present.

What is an expedited hearing?

An expedited hearing may take place when a student accepts responsibility for a violation of the Honor Code. The Honor Council schedules expedited hearings more quickly, and the hearing itself is usually much shorter than a full hearing. As the student is acknowledging responsibility, neither the reporting professor nor any witnesses are present. The student also must waive the right to appeal the Honor Council's decision. Participating in an expedited hearing does not imply a less severe sanction, but it does resolve the situation more quickly.

What is a full hearing?

A full hearing includes four Honor Council members, in addition to a faculty advisor of the Honor Council. The reporting professor, student, and any other witnesses testify in person. The Honor Council may question any of the participants and consider any evidence for the case before deciding the verdict and, if necessary, an appropriate sanction.

Can I bring someone to the hearing?

Yes, a student enrolled in the College or a faculty member may accompany you at a hearing. Article 6, Section 1c of the Honor Code specifies that students "may be accompanied by a student or faculty member of the College as an advisor for purposes of consultation, but neither the accused nor the advisor shall have the right to examine witnesses." The accused student is prohibited from bringing someone who is not a student or faculty member of the College.

What is the usual sanction for an offense?

The Honor Council may consider a range of sanctions for violating the Honor Code, but the penalty is usually severe. While there is no automatic sanction for a given violation, the Honor Council typically assigns an F in the course and a two-year mark on the student's personal record for the first violation. The second violation may warrant a suspension, a permanent mark on the student's personal record, and an F in the course. The third violation may warrant an expulsion (along with a permanent mark and an F in the course). The Honor Council may elect to consider mitigating or aggravating circumstances when recommending a sanction.

Should I appeal the Honor Council's decision?

Once the Honor Council has made a decision, the Assistant Dean will schedule a time to meet you and explain the appeals process and your options. Appeal letters are due seven days after you receive notice of the Honor Council's decision. In considering your case, the Appeal Panel may deny the appeal, submit your case to another full hearing, or adjust your sanction, either by decreasing **OR** increasing its severity.
