Honor Code Information

**The Code**

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance on this work."

**Philosophy and Background**

It is no secret that academic integrity violations have been on the rise in universities across the country. According to the Center for Academic Integrity (CAI), “On most campuses, 70% of students admit to some cheating.”1However, institutions that implement honor codes typically see a substantial drop in the amount of cheating. Given these circumstances, a group of Trinity students began the push for an honor code in the mid-1990’s. Met with resistance, the project stalled, but was resurrected again after President John Brazil took office. A devoted group of students carefully researched honor codes across the country. They wrote Trinity’s Academic Honor Code. A student town hall meeting in the Coates Center drew an overflow crowd, echoing the unity of the student body regarding the issue. As the Academic Honor Code gained momentum, administrators, faculty and students drafted final versions of the Honor Code. After much collaboration and hard work, the Academic Honor Code passed the Association of Student Representatives and the Faculty Senate on February 21, 2003. Trinity finally had a student owned, student run academic integrity system.

**FAQ**

**What are the mitigating factors that could influence my sanction if found responsible?**

There are three mitigating factors which could influence your sanction.  The first factor is the amount of plagiarism; the second is cooperation before and during a hearing, including entering a plea of responsible; and the third is “extenuating circumstances”.  All of these factors are dependent upon the individual case and may not be used at all if the hearing panel does not find them applicable.

**Who can I talk to about acceptable citations before turning in an assignment?**

The easiest way to make sure everything with your assignment is in order is to talk with your professors.  They are the ones grading what you turn in, so they know what they expect.  If the professor is unclear or other ambiguities present themselves, ask questions. You can always email the Honor Council to ask questions about proper citations. Finally, consult a style guide such as the *MLA Handbook*, or the Writing Center in the library.

**What violations are covered by the AHC?**

The Academic Honor Council deals strictly with academic integrity violations that occur at any time during any class offered at Trinity.   We have *nothing* to do with other conduct related violations, such as getting written up for possession of alcohol.

**What happens when a complaint is filed against me?**

An email will be sent to you informing you that a complaint has been filed and accepted.  Contained within this email will be information regarding the date and time of your hearing.  An advocate-presenter will also get in contact with you to help you prepare for the hearing.  The advocate-presenter is not a legal representative and will only present relevant evidence that you supply.

**What recourse do I have to appeal a sanction?**

Once a sanction has been issued, there are two ways in which a sanction may be appealed.  The first is if a procedural error occurred during the hearing; however, two faculty advisors are present during each hearing to call points-of-order, which are designed to prevent such errors from occurring.  The second option is if you discover new evidence or witnesses, which completely changes the nature of the case.