

The Graduate Honor Code

The Graduate Honor Code establishes a standard of academic integrity and demands a firm adherence to a set of values based on honesty with respect to the intellectual efforts of oneself and others.

Compliance with the Graduate Honor Code requires that **all** graduate students exercise honesty and ethical behavior in all their academic pursuits at Virginia Tech. This includes but is not limited to **course work, research, extension, or teaching.**

In accepting admission, graduate students subscribe to the Graduate Honor Code and acknowledge the right of the University to establish policies and procedures and to take disciplinary action (including suspension or expulsion) when such action is warranted. For more information see the Constitution of the Graduate Honor System at <https://graduateschool.vt.edu/academics/expectations/graduate-honor-system.html>

It's Your Honor ...

It is recognized that graduate students and faculty have diverse cultural backgrounds. In light of this, the term ethical behavior is defined as conforming to accepted professional standards of conduct such as the Graduate Honor Code and codes of ethics used by professional societies in the United States. Resources are available to clarify expectations and provide learning opportunities:

<https://graduateschool.vt.edu/academics/expectations/graduate-honor-system/ghs-student-resources.html>

It's Your Responsibility ...

Cheating, plagiarism, and other violations are academic **theft**. All graduate students must make it their responsibility to know what is and is not allowed in their academic work, to know what constitutes a violation of the Honor Code and how to avoid a conflict. If you are

unsure, ask your instructor, consult the Graduate Honor System Constitution or contact the Graduate Honor System.

It's Your Academic Work ...

What is not allowed:

Cheating: Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of any unauthorized aid, assistance, or unfair advantage in any form of academic work, not limited to coursework. The most frequent referrals involve cheating on homework, or take-home and/or open-book exams. It is important that instructors clearly state what is allowed and not allowed during any academic work, and students should make sure their instructors do so. When in doubt, ask your instructor!

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating. It is defined as copying the language, structure, idea and/or thoughts of another and claiming or attempting to imply that they are one's own work. It includes omitting of quotation marks when references are copied directly, improper paraphrasing, or inadequate referencing of sources. The most frequent referrals involve inadequate citations of reference materials.

Falsification: Falsifying, orally or in writing, any circumstance relevant to one's academic work. Examples include acts such as forgery of signatures, tampering with official records, research data or documents, and accessing without authorization someone else's computer account or files.

Academic Sabotage: Purposeful vandalism directed against any academic endeavor or equipment. Examples may be acts such as introducing computer viruses or disabling research projects.

For details see the <https://graduateschool.vt.edu/academics/expectations/graduate-honor-system.html>

It's Your System! Get Involved!

The Graduate Honor System relies on the involvement of graduate students and faculty members in processing cases and educating peers about the standards of academic integrity and honesty.

Student and faculty volunteers are invited to participate in seminars and serve, as their schedules permit, on Preliminary Review Panels and Review Panels for cases referred to the Graduate Honor System.

- A Preliminary Review Panel comprises five graduate students and two faculty members. Students have full voting privileges, while faculty serve in an advisory capacity. The time commitment for each hearing is about 20-40 minutes.
- A Review Panel comprises a minimum of four graduate students and three faculty members. Both student and faculty panelists have full voting privileges. Hearings generally last 45-90 minutes, depending on the complexity of the case.

The Graduate Honor System hears 20-30 cases per year. Student and faculty volunteers can serve on a preliminary or full review panel upon attending a short, one-hour training session. Preliminary Review Most hearings are conducted by Zoom at the convenience of panelists.

Students are selected for a one-year term, while faculty volunteers are selected for a two-year term. Each may be extended for up to four years.

If you are interested in becoming a student or faculty panelist, please contact the chair of the Graduate Honor System.

Faculty Advisor: Monika Gibson
(540) 231-9564
gibsonm@vt.edu

Chair: ghs@vt.edu



Graduate Honor System

To Uphold & Enforce
Academic Integrity

It's Your Honor,
It's Your System!



GRADUATE SCHOOL
VIRGINIA TECH.