

Smeal Honor Code Violations Disclosure, December 2013

To the Smeal College Undergraduate Community:

We would like to thank you for your continued support of the Smeal College Honor Code and the important principles and values it represents. While the vast majority of Smeal College students uphold the Honor Code, there have been instances during this reporting period in which some have fallen short of the mark. In identifying these shortcomings, both students and faculty members have taken the responsibility to step forward. In addition to the faculty initiated actions, Smeal College students have brought academic integrity concerns to their respective instructors resulting in formal resolution through our review process.

As we do each semester, here is a breakdown of the academic integrity violations that were referred and resolved during the previous twelve months.

For the December 1, 2012 - November 30, 2013 reporting period:

There were 59 referrals to the academic integrity violation process.

Uncontested Cases: 50

Contested Cases: 9

- Student found responsible and sanction appropriate: 5
- Student found responsible with reduced sanction: 2
- Student found responsible with enhanced sanction: 1
- Case dismissed: 1

Violation categories:

- Falsifying attendance records.
- Improper copying or collaborating on homework assignments.
- Plagiarism in various forms.
- Using a cell phone during an exam.
- Copying answers / looking at another student's exam.
- Facilitating the cheating of another student during an exam.
- Having access to or viewing prohibited course or reference material during an exam.
- Removing exam information from testing center.
- Violating instructors' exam rules.

The sanctions for these violations ranged from reduced scores on the exams or assignments; zero credit on the exams or assignments; reduction of final course grades; to course failure. In some cases, there were referrals to the Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary review at the university level.

The Smeal College Honor Code represents an important distinction for our students and alumni. With your support, the Smeal College of Business will continue to represent the highest values through its graduates entering business communities throughout the world.

Charles H. Whiteman, Dean
Jeff Sharp, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Education