Introduction to the Honor System

Gillings School of Global Public Health
The Basics

- One of the oldest Honor Codes in the nation
- Student led system
- Procedures come from the *Instrument of Student Judicial Governance* ([http://instrument.unc.edu](http://instrument.unc.edu))
- Covers academics and conduct
- Applies from application to graduation
What We’re Seeing

- Time Period: Fall 2000-Spring 2009
- 125 total academic cases reported to the Graduate Honor System (GHS)
- 96 cases charged by GHS
  - 54 SPH cases reported to GHS
  - 44 SPH cases charged by GHS
- 32% of reported cases
- 34% of charged cases
Who Does the Graduate Honor System Cover?

Graduate Honor System includes all graduate/professional programs except students seeking the following degrees:

1. MD (Medicine)
2. DDS (Dental)
3. MAC (Business) after 2006
4. MBA (Business) after 2006
5. JD (Law)
6. PharmD (Pharmacy) after 2001

These programs are administered by separate Honor Systems.

According to Spring 2009 numbers from the Office of the Registrar, the Graduate Honor System has jurisdiction over approximately 7500 students.
What are Academic Cases?

Students charged with:

1. Plagiarism
2. Unauthorized collaboration
3. Presenting or creating false information
4. Other forms of cheating
## Reported Cases by Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Case Reported</th>
<th>Cases Charged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>28</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>54</strong></td>
<td><strong>44</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Health Students

- According to 2009 Registrar numbers: approximately 905 SPH graduate level students
- SPH students should make up 12% of total GHS cases
- SPH students actually make up 32% of reported GHS cases
What are your Responsibilities as Faculty Members?

Faculty Council Resolution 2003-5, (from the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance)

1. “Report to the appropriate Student Attorney General any instance in which the instructor has reasonable basis to conclude that a student under the faculty member’s supervision has engaged in academic dishonesty.”

2. Require students to sign the honor pledge when submitting assignments.

3. “Refrain from taking unilateral punitive action as to a student rather than reporting conduct in suspected violation of the Honor Code.”
How To Report a Case?

- Go to http://honor.unc.edu
- Click on, “For Faculty”
- Go to: “Report a Violation”
- Or send an email to honor@unc.edu
How to Prevent Violations

Address in the syllabus
- Define plagiarism and note preferred citation method
- Discuss authorized vs. unauthorized collaboration
- Inform of possible consequences

Provide clear instructions for group work

Design exams and assignments that are harder to cheat on
- Require students to show their work
- Multiple copies of exams

Encourage students to seek help