

# INTEGRITY NEWS

Georgia Institute of Technology  
www.deanofstudents.gatech.edu/integrity



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## THE STATE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AT THE INSTITUTE

Academic misconduct violations: Graduate and undergraduate students  
Cases resolved: Fall term 2005 (8/22/05- 1/6/06)

Total: College of Architecture	Total: College of Computing	Total: College of Engineering	Total: College of Management	Total: Ivan Allen College	Total: College of Sciences	Total: Other	TOTAL	College/Charged violation
0	1	3	2	4	11	0	21	C1: Unauthorized Access
0	8	24	2	0	4	0	38	C2: Unauthorized Collaboration
0	0	0	0	11	4	0	15	C3: Plagiarism
0	1	13	0	0	5	0	19	C4: Falsification of Work
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	C5: Alteration of Grade
0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	C6: Deliberate Falsification
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	C7: Forgery
0	10	40	4	15	27	0	96	Total Cases Resolved

### INTEGRITY ALGEBRA

Academic integrity data, fall 2005  
(8/22/05 – 1/6/06)

**118**

Total academic cases forwarded to OSI

**96**

Total academic cases resolved

**22**

Total cases resolved through the Honor Committee

**72**

Total academic cases resolved through administrative or faculty resolution

**2**

Total cases resolved by appeal to VPSA

**69**

Total students found responsible for academic misconduct.

**27**

Total students found not responsible

*This segment of the newsletter covers recent statistics of the Office of Student Integrity. OSI compiles statistics semesterly and yearly for the newsletter and other various research based projects. The data is divided into colleges.*

**Term:** First day of a semester through the day before the next semester.

**Primary Violation:** The most important and underlying aspect/charge of the case.

**Charges Data:** Each case is calculated by the primary violation of the case, therefore there may be more charges within one case. Additional charges are not reflected in this data.

**Charges:** Any student found responsible for academic misconduct is charged with violating a particular portion of section C of Institute's Student Code of Conduct. The various charges include:

**C1:** Unauthorized access is possessing, using, or exchanging improperly acquired written or verbal information in the preparation of any essay, laboratory report, examination, or other assignment included in any academic course.

**C2:** Unauthorized collaboration is the substitution for, or unauthorized collaboration with, a student in the commission of academic requirements.

**C3:** Submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another person or persons, without adequate credit notations indicating the authorship.

**C4:** False claims of performance for work that has been submitted by the claimant.

**C5:** Alteration or insertion of any academic grade or rating so as to obtain unearned academic credit.

**C6:** Deliberate falsification of a written or verbal statement of fact to a member of the faculty so as to obtain unearned academic credit.

**C7:** Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any Institute document relating to the academic status of the student.

## STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT UNDER REVIEW

This semester the Office of the Dean of Students initiated a full review of the Student Code of Conduct, including the process of case investigation and adjudication. For several months, a committee of administrators, faculty, and students has met regularly to consider various ways to make the entire student judicial process more streamlined and user-friendly. In addition, they hope to make the actual text of the Code more clear and concise. Dr. Raymond Vito, Associate Dean of the College of Engineering, serves as the committee's chair. Look for results of this committee's hard work in the near future.

## FROM THE ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COMMITTEE

The Academic Integrity Committee is a standing body of the Academic Senate charged with the promotion of academic integrity efforts among Institute faculty—particularly proactive measures. Chaired by Professor Tom Morley in the School of Mathematics, the small committee includes four faculty members and three student members. The Student Government Association chooses one undergraduate and one graduate, and the Honor Advisory Council also selects a student representative. In many ways, this committee is the faculty counterpart to the student Honor Advisory Council. “We’re all in favor of academic integrity. No question. Dealing with cases of academic dishonesty after the fact is important, but the real gains in student integrity come from all of—us students, faculty, staff, administration—working together to promote academic honesty and to prevent dishonesty before it occurs,” said Dr. Morley, explaining the group’s mission. For further information on the Academic Integrity Committee and its work, please contact Dr. Morley.

Georgia Institute of  
Technology

### INTEGRITY NEWS

Editor: Jody Shaw

Publication is  
throughout the  
academic year as needed.

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## HONOR ADVISORY COUNCIL'S CORNER

*The Honor Advisory Council (HAC) is a group of Tech students that conducts proactive education and provides guidance to their peers about academic integrity issues. Here, HAC Chair Clayton Tino provides helpful information for faculty members from the student perspective.*

Many academic integrity violations can be traced back to a student’s unfamiliarity with course policies and procedures, especially those related to “word” and collaboration. Try to **clearly and explicitly define what is appropriate for YOUR class** on your syllabus using some of these examples:

### Homework Policy

- “When working on homework, you may not work with other students, and doing such is a violation of the GT Academic Honor Code. Submitting any work other than your own is also a violation of the Academic Honor Code.”
- “When working on homework, you may work with other students in the class. However; you must turn in separate copies (or one copy), of the homework with the following written on it: your name, the names of everyone you collaborated with, and (insert anything else you would normally require on an assignment.)”

### Use of Previous Semester Course Materials:

- “Unauthorized use of any previous semester course materials, such as tests, quizzes, homework, projects, and any other coursework, is prohibited in this course. Using these materials will be considered a direct violation of academic policy and will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code.”
- “Use of any previous semester course materials is allowed for this course; however, I remind you that while they may serve as examples for you, they are not guidelines for any tests, quizzes, homework, projects, or any other coursework that may be assigned during the semester.”

To read the full text of the Syllabus Checklist or to schedule a presentation for you class or faculty meeting, please visit [www.honor.gatech.edu](http://www.honor.gatech.edu). Please direct any other questions you may have to [honor@gatech.edu](mailto:honor@gatech.edu).

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## Honor Quotation of the Issue

**“Integrity is not a 90% thing, not a 95% thing, either you have it or you don’t.”**

**Peter Scotese  
 (Industrialist)**

## THIS MONTH’S HELPFUL CLASSROOM HINTS. . .

*Tests present unique challenges for professors as they try to conduct a fair and honest assessment of their students’ knowledge. Most students conduct themselves with honor, but some of these proactive measures might reduce opportunities to cheat.*

- Prior to the exam, consider providing old exams and/or test questions to students to ensure all students have equal access to preparatory materials.
- At the beginning or end of each test, have a statement for the students to sign, such as: “I take this exam in accordance with the Academic Honor Code.”
- If possible, seat students every other desk. Assign seats at random on test day, so that the students do not know around whom they will sit prior to the test.
- In large classes, have students show their Buzz Cards (campus IDs) when entering the testing room to ensure the right student is taking the exam for a grade.
- During the exam, consider asking students place backpacks, books, notebooks, beepers, cell phones, and computers in another part of the room.
- Provide scrap paper for students to work on and then have the students turn in those papers with the test or require that they bring blue books and swap them.
- Have a proctor actively watch the classroom. The proctor should not remain in the room through the exam. He or she should not read or engage in any other task.
- Do not allow students to leave the classroom and come back in to finish a test. Once a student leaves the test room, he or she should hand in the exam. Number the tests so that you will know that all test have been returned and accounted for in the classroom.
- Create multiple versions of the test.
- Remake exams each semester. Reorder questions, reword questions, and change formats. Students frequently give old exams to friends to aid their studying, which is not banned under the Academic Honor Code. Creating new exams each semester assures that all students have an equal opportunity for success.
- Do not return tests to students until everyone has taken the exam. If you allow make up exams then let the students know the grade their grades, but do not give back hard copies until all make up exams have been administered.
- When possible, use free response and essay questions rather than multiple choice.
- When giving take home exams spend extra time to clearly define what will and will not be acceptable. Make sure students understand your policy on collaboration.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Currently the GT Honor Code requires faculty to report any instances of academic dishonesty to the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS), including faculty conference resolutions.
- If you as a faculty member punish a student academically without due process (reduce a grade for cheating without working with ODOS); *you* have legal liability.
- The Honor Code contains broad definitions, therefore *you* must define what is acceptable for your course and each assignment. Eg: unauthorized collaboration.

*The Office of Student Integrity (OSI) is located in the Student Services building and is housed within the Office of the Dean of Students. The Student Code of Conduct and Academic Honor Code were created to outline what the Institute expects and how it will respond if those expectations are not met. At the same time, Tech is an educational institution and, as such, the primary goal of the judicial system is to encourage our students to learn to make better decisions.*

**Study shows student attitudes toward misusing copyrighted materials remains questionable.**

**Do faculty members set good examples for students?**



## **AROUND THE WORLD IN ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Software piracy has been the subject of several studies, which have found it to be a widespread phenomenon, particularly among university students. Recently, a study by Cohen and Cornwell from a decade ago was replicated and amended to add questions about downloading music from the Internet. It posed questions to 224 students in entry-level courses at two schools—a nondenominational suburban university and a Catholic urban college with similar student profiles. The study found that there has been few if any changes in student opinions regarding the unauthorized duplication of copyrighted materials over 10 years. Students generally felt that copying commercial software and downloading music from the Internet was acceptable and found that there was no significant correlation between student attitudes and their school's religious affiliation or lack thereof. (Siegfried, Robert [Ethics and Information Technology](#), Volume 6, Number 4, December 2004, pp. 215-222(8) , Springer). Georgia Tech's outstanding technological resources create constant temptations for its students to download copyrighted materials. Though this sort of activity falls outside the bounds of academic integrity, as a faculty member, you can help OSI further general integrity on campus by being a role model, for example, in your use of copyrighted materials and electronic reserves. Look for enhanced copyright education programs for the Tech community starting in fall 2006.

**FOR INFORMATION ON GEORGIA TECH'S POLICIES & PROCEDURES OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND HOW TO REPORT A VIOLATION.**

**VISIT US ONLINE AT:**

**[WWW.DEANOFSTUDENTS.GATECH.EDU/INTEGRITY/](http://WWW.DEANOFSTUDENTS.GATECH.EDU/INTEGRITY/)**

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