

Gettysburg College Honor Commission  
Yearly Report  
Fall 2006 – Spring 2007

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## Introduction

The Gettysburg College Honor Code, revised and approved starting in the Fall 2006 – Spring 2007 academic year, changed the way in which Honor Code violation accusations are handled. A preliminary conference is held with the accused student, any community member the accused student wishes to be present, the faculty member if a course is involved, the Honor Commission chair or vice-chair, and a Dean of Academic Advising. This new protocol gives accused students the chance of presenting and solving his/her case with the people involved before moving to a student-run hearing board, if necessary.

This new process changes the way in which the Honor Commission presents data in the yearly report; therefore, no cumulative data from years past will be presented with the Fall 2006 – Spring 2007 statistical report. Reports from years past can be accessed by all community members through the Office of Academic Advising.

## Statistical Report (Fall 2006 – Spring 2007)

Total Number of Accusations: 39

Cases resolved in Preliminary Conference: 35

Cases resolved in Hearing Board: 4

Table 1. Verdicts of the 39 Honor Code violation accusations.

Not-guilty	7 (18%)
Guilty	32 (82%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>

Table 2. Gender comparison of students found guilty of an Honor Code Violation.

Female	12 (38%)
Male	20 (62%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>

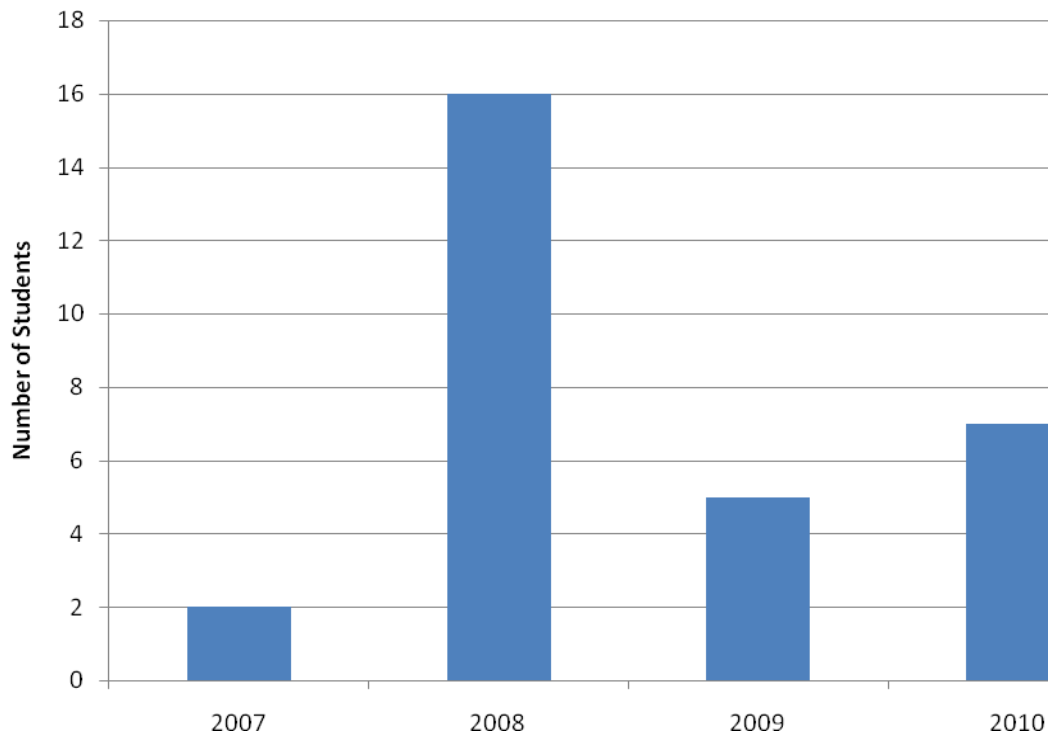


Figure 1. Guilty student's intended graduation year.

Table 3. Departments in which violations occurred.

<b>Department</b>	<b>Number of Guilty Students</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Number of Guilty Students</b>
African American Studies	2	Mathematics	2
Anthropology	3	Management	4
Astronomy	3	Music	1
Classical Studies	1	Political Science	3
Economics	1	Psychology	1
English	5	Sociology	1
Japanese Studies	1	Women's Studies	1

- Note that 3 violations occurred outside the purview of a course.

Table 4. Violation Type

<b>Violation</b>	<b>Number of Violations</b>
Plagiarism	12
Collaboration	7
Defacing Library Materials	1
Lying and Forgery	8
Cheating	4

Table 5. Penalty Type

<b>Penalty</b>	<b>Number of Students with Penalty</b>
Academic Suspension Alert	2
Restitution	1
Reduction in Course Grade	8
Failure in Assignment	11
Failure in Course	5
Expulsion	2
Other	1
Unknown	2

## Conclusion

The Gettysburg College Honor Commission's goal is to promote and instill academic integrity in our community. However, national statistics show that cheating is at a higher rate than reported at Gettysburg College; informal surveys of college students show that 75% to as high as 98% of college students cheat during their academic years. More formal studies show that the cheating rate amongst college students approaches 50%<sup>1</sup>. At Gettysburg College, the 32 Honor Code violations seen this year involved approximately 1% of the student population.

With all the facts considered, it appears that cheating and other acts of dishonesty are significantly underreported. Even though institutions with Honor Codes experience fewer cases of cheating than do institutions without Honor Codes<sup>2</sup>, cheating, collaboration, and other acts of dishonesty still occur at Gettysburg, and it is the community members' duty and responsibility under the Gettysburg College Honor code to report such violations.

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<sup>1</sup> Pino, Nathan; Smith, William. "College students and academic dishonesty." College Student Journal. December 2003.

<sup>2</sup> McCabe, Donald *et. al* "Academic Integrity in Honor Code and Non-Honor Code Environments: A Qualitative Investigation." The Journal of Higher Education. (1999). 70(2), 211-234