

Gettysburg College Honor Commission
Yearly Report

Fall 2007 – Spring 2008

With Cumulative Data From 2006 to 2008

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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, only cumulative data from the Fall 2006 – Spring 2007 academic year will be presented with this year's report. Reports from years past can be accessed by all community members through the Office of Academic Advising.

Statistical Report (Fall 2007 – Spring 2008)

Total Number of Accusations: 30

Cases resolved in Preliminary Conference: 25

Cases resolved in Hearing Board: 5

Table 1. Verdicts of the 30 Honor Code violation accusations.

Not-guilty	10 (33%)
Guilty	20 (67%)
Total	30

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

Female	7 (35%)
Male	13 (65%)
Total	20

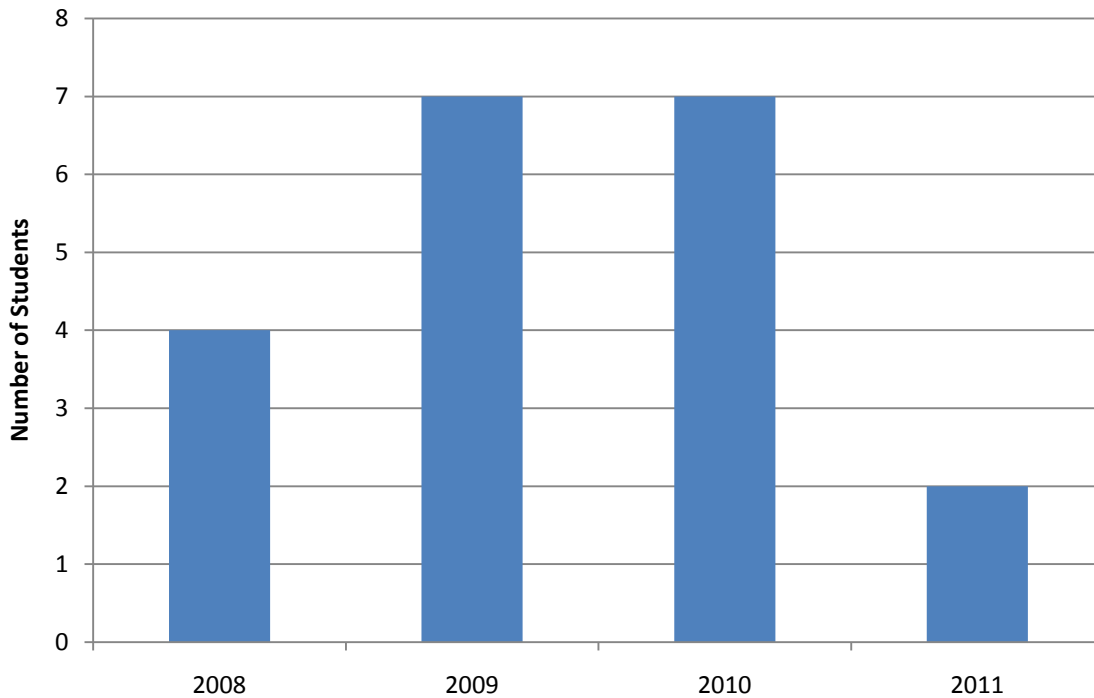


Figure 1. Guilty student's intended graduation year.

Table 3. Departments in which violations occurred.

Department	Number of Guilty Students	Department	Number of Guilty Students
African American Studies	4	German	2
Biology	1	Physics	3
Chemistry	2	Political Science	1
Economics	1	Spanish	1
History	3	Visual Arts	1

- Note that 1 violation occurred outside the purview of a course.

Table 4. Violation Type

Violation	Number of Violations
Plagiarism	7 (35%)
Lying and Forgery	5 (25%)
Cheating	8 (40%)

Table 5. Penalty Type

Penalty	Number of Students with Penalty
Academic Suspension Alert	1
Reduction in Course Grade	4
Failure in Assignment	6
Failure in Course	6
Suspension 1 Semester	2
Suspension 2 Semesters	1

Cumulative Statistical Report (Fall 2006 – Spring 2008)

Total Number of Accusations: 69

Cases resolved in Preliminary Conference: 60

Cases resolved in Hearing Board: 9

Table 6. Verdicts of the 69 Honor Code violation accusations.

Not-guilty	17 (25%)
Guilty	52 (75%)
Total	69

Table 7. Gender comparison of students found guilty of an Honor Code Violation.

Female	19 (37%)
Male	33 (63%)
Total	20

Table 8. Departments in which violations occurred.

Department	Number of Guilty Students	Department	Number of Guilty Students
African American Studies*	6	Management	4
Anthropology	3	Mathematics	2
Astronomy	3	Music	1
Biology	1	Physics	3
Chemistry	2	Political Science*	4
Classical Studies	1	Psychology	1
Economics*	2	Sociology	1
English	5	Spanish	1
German	2	Visual Arts	1
History	3	Women's Studies	1
Japanese Studies	1		

- Note that 4 violations occurred outside the purview of a course.

* Three departments had violations in both the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 academic years.

Table 9. Violation Type

Violation	Number of Violations
Plagiarism	19 (37%)
Collaboration	7 (13%)
Lying and Forgery	13 (25%)
Defacing Library Materials	1 (2%)
Cheating	12 (23%)

Table 10. Penalty Type

Penalty	Number of Students with Penalty
Academic Suspension Alert	3
Restitution	1
Reduction in Course Grade	12
Failure in Assignment	17
Failure in Course	11
Suspension 1 Semester	2
Suspension 2 Semesters	1
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%¹. At Gettysburg College, the 52 Honor Code violations seen in these two years involved approximately 2% 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 Codes², 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.

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

² 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