

Draft TCU Undergraduate Academic Honor Code

Frequently Asked Questions

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Will the proposed Undergraduate Academic Honor Code (the code) replace the current procedures for dealing with questions of academic conduct, as outlined in the Student Handbook?
2. What are the primary objectives of the code?
3. What is the purpose of the code?
4. What areas of student behavior are covered by the code?
5. What does the code do?
6. How will the Student Integrity Council be formed?
7. What will happen if a student appeals to the Student Integrity Council?
8. When can a student appeal to the Student Integrity Council?
9. Will the code apply to all TCU students?
10. Who has the final say on any allegations of academic misconduct?
11. When would the code take effect?

INSTRUCTOR QUESTIONS

1. Will the new code require me to change how I currently deal with allegations of cheating in my class?
2. Is it possible for me to be bypassed when an allegation of academic misconduct is made in my class?
3. What options are available to me if I am not satisfied with the recommendations of the Student Integrity Panel?
4. What if I object to students in my class using a test bank, even if previous instructors have released their materials?

STUDENT QUESTIONS

1. Does the code expand the definitions of academic misconduct?
2. What about those "Additional Academic Honor Code Violations?"
3. If my organization currently has a test bank, will it be a violation of the code?
4. Am I required to report academic misconduct to an instructor?

General Questions

Will the proposed Academic Honor Code replace the current procedures for dealing with questions of academic conduct, as outlined in the Student Handbook?

No. All procedures detailed in the Student Handbook will remain in place. The proposed code simply adds an additional means of dealing with allegations of academic misconduct.

What are the primary objectives of the code?

The primary objectives are to promote continued awareness of academic integrity, to challenge students to grow ethically, to define a standard of academic integrity, and to entrust part of the responsibility for that standard with the student body.

What is the purpose of the code?

The purpose is to foster a culture of academic integrity, value, and quality.

What areas of student behavior are covered by the code?

Unlike honor codes at some other institutions, the TCU code applies only to academic conduct/misconduct.

What does the code do?

The code establishes the Student Integrity Council to hear cases of alleged academic misconduct.

How will the Student Integrity Council be formed?

The Student Integrity Council will be composed of students who apply to and are appointed by the various academic deans (four per dean).

What will happen if a student appeals to the Student Integrity Council?

The Executive Board of the Student Integrity Council will form a Case Panel on an ad hoc basis, composed of five student members of the Student Integrity Council and two full-time faculty members. The Case Panel will meet with the accused student and the course instructor to hear both sides of the matter. The Case Panel will then create written report of its findings and recommendations which will be distributed to the student, instructor, academic dean, and Dean of Campus Life. The academic dean will then review the recommendations, but is not bound by them.

When can a student appeal to the Student Integrity Council?

A student may self-report to the Student Integrity Council rather than to the course instructor, or the student may appeal to the Student Integrity Council at any time until the matter reaches the Academic Appeals Committee. However, a case may only be appealed to the Student Integrity Council one time.

Will the proposed Academic Honor Code apply to all TCU students?

The code will apply only to undergraduate students, regardless of major or program. Graduate students will not be covered by the code.

Who has the final say on any allegations of academic misconduct?

Once a case reaches the Academic Appeals Committee, it follows existing policies and procedures.

When would the code take effect?

The code would take effect once it has received final approval by the TCU administration.

Instructor Questions

Will the new code require me to change how I currently deal with allegations of cheating in my class?

No. You will still be free to impose whatever sanctions you believe appropriate. If the student agrees to the sanctions, then the matter is closed. As in our current policy, if the student wishes to appeal the sanctions you have imposed, the student can appeal to

the department chair of the department under which the course is offered. The new code, however, would give the student an additional avenue of appeal. Instead of appealing to the department chair, the student can appeal to the Student Integrity Council.

Is it possible for me to be bypassed when an allegation of academic misconduct is made in my class?

No. Even if the student self-reports to the Student Integrity Council, the Case Panel must notify you and give you an opportunity to present your case to the panel.

What options are available to me if I am not satisfied with the recommendations of the Student Integrity Panel?

Any recommendations made by the Case Panel must be approved by the academic dean. You have the right to present your case to the dean before the dean's decision is made. At this point further appeals follow existing policy.

What if I object to students in my class using a test bank, even if previous instructors have released their materials?

It is still your course and your syllabus. You might consider including a statement in your syllabus, such as "The use of test banks containing materials from previous terms, whether authorized by other instructors or not, is not allowed in this course."

Student Questions

Does the code expand the definitions of academic misconduct?

No. The code uses the same examples of academic misconduct as listed in the TCU Student Handbook.

What about those "Additional Academic Honor Code Violations?"

The additional items listed in the code are merely clarifications or additional examples of those items listed in the Student Handbook.

If my organization currently has a test bank, will it be a violation of the code?

If the instructor has not authorized a student to possess test bank materials, the test bank is a violation of the code. For example, if an instructor returns an exam to students to review in a subsequent class, and allows the students to keep the exam, then the instructor has authorized students to possess the exam. However, if the instructor requires students to return the exam and a student keeps the exam or makes copies of the exam questions, then possession of those exam materials would be unauthorized and would be a violation of both the new code and the current standards of academic conduct.

Am I required to report academic misconduct to an instructor?

In general, having knowledge of academic misconduct by another student and failing to report that information to the instructor would be a violation of the TCU academic conduct policy in that it would constitute complicity in academic misconduct.