



# College of Veterinary Medicine

## Policies and Procedures

Subject: MSU Honor Code

Section: Student Policy and Procedures

Number: CVM 7.01

Pages: 3

Date: 2016

Replaces Policy Dated: 2012

To Be Reviewed Yearly by: Academic and Student Affairs (Significant changes reviewed by MSU General Counsel)

Source:

Cross Reference:

### HONOR CODE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

*"As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do."*

The dignity of the veterinary profession is at most the sum of the integrity of its members. Veterinary students should, therefore, strive consciously to safeguard individual professional demeanor. The honor system is designed to promote honesty, fairness, and ethical behavior within the university through explicit expression of responsibilities and rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for the maintenance of this ethical conduct lies within the individual. It is the purpose of the honor system to regulate the conduct of the student only when individual behavior goes amiss.

#### Mississippi State University Honor Code

##### Honor Code-Summary

Full version available at <http://students.msstate.edu/honorcode/>

For additional information pertaining to the "Code of Student Conduct" please visit:  
<http://www.policies.msstate.edu>, OP 91.100

## I. RULES PERTAINING TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE

### I. A. INTRODUCTION

Mississippi State University is dedicated to the discovery, development, communication and application of knowledge in a wide range of academic and professional fields and assumes as its historic trust the maintenance of freedom of inquiry and an intellectual environment nurturing the human mind and spirit. The MSU Honor Code is critical to these ideals, to the goal of assuming a place of preeminence in higher education, and to the development of the whole student. 1

### I. B. COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

Academic dishonesty is a corrosive force in the academic life of a university. It jeopardizes the quality of education and depreciates the genuine achievements of others. It is, without reservation, a responsibility of all members of the Mississippi State University community to actively deter it. Apathy or acquiescence in the presence of academic dishonesty is not a neutral act -- failure to confront and deter it will reinforce, perpetuate, and enlarge the scope of such misconduct. As such, a primary responsibility assumed by Mississippi State students is to discourage violations of the MSU Honor Code by others. Various methods of discouragement exist including drawing attention to a suspected violation and moral suasion. Initiating formal procedures is an expected remedy when other methods are inappropriate or have failed. Self-reporting is encouraged and may be considered a mitigating circumstance in the sanctioning phase of a particular case. Additionally, faculty and staff share in the responsibility and authority to challenge and make known acts that violate the MSU Honor Code. Faculty are expected to take proactive steps to promote academic integrity including, but not limited to, adding language to their syllabi that describes prohibited behavior and the consequences of such activity; and, having an open discussion about academic integrity with students in their courses early in the semester. Additionally, faculty members are expected to adhere to the policy pertaining to the reporting and adjudication of violations of the MSU Honor Code. Initiating formal procedures is a necessary and obligatory component of this shared responsibility. Collaboration and sharing information are characteristics of academic communities. These become violations when they involve dishonesty or are used in ways that give a student an unfair advantage. Faculty members should make clear to students their expectations about collaboration and information sharing. Students should seek clarification when in doubt.

### **I. C. DEFINITIONS OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Misconduct in research or scholarship includes without limitation fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, reviewing, or reporting research or other academic work. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data. Mississippi State University students are responsible for authenticating any assignment submitted to an instructor or graduate committee, excluding examinations. If asked, a student must be able to produce proof that the assignment submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one's work, should the instructor or graduate committee request it, is sufficient grounds to initiate an academic dishonesty case. Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute academic dishonesty. This listing is not, however, exclusive of any other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute scholastic dishonesty. Clarification is provided for each definition with a listing of some prohibited behaviors.

- 1. Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise.
- 2. Fabrication:** Making up data or results and recording or reporting them.
- 3. Falsification:** Manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research or academic work is not accurately represented in the research or work record.
- 4. Multiple Submissions:** The submission of substantial portions of the same work (including oral reports) for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor of the class for which the student submits the work.
- S. Plagiarism:** The appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.

