

# The Honor Pledge

***“On my honor, as a student, I have  
neither given nor received  
unauthorized aid on this ac-  
ademic work.”***

<http://www.k-state.edu/honor>

Most K-State faculty and students take the Honor Pledge seriously. Ideally students should turn in honest work and faculty should report academic dishonesty.

For faculty and GTAs, the default thinking is, “They will do their own work.” For students who have been practicing ‘teamwork’ throughout the high school experience, the default thinking is, “My buddy and I will help each other learn.” If clear lines are not drawn about what is expected in *each* class, Honor Pledge violations occur.

Frequently, students generalize from one faculty member to another. One K-State study<sup>1</sup> suggests that even faculty members are not on the same page with what they consider allowable.

As a graduate teaching assistant, have open dialogue with your major professor about the classroom atmosphere you both want to create for the students in your course.

Be clear; be consistent; be aware!

<sup>1</sup> Marcoux Dissertation (2002) - <http://www.k-state.edu/honor/honorsystem/researchlinks/index.htm>

## Kansas State University Honor & Integrity System

**Dr. Steve Starrett**

Director

**Dr. Camilla Roberts**

Associate Director

**215 Fairchild Hall**

**(785) 532-2595**

[honor@ksu.edu](mailto:honor@ksu.edu)

**Web Site:**

<http://www.k-state.edu/honor>

Graduate Teaching  
Assistant Information

Don't  
break the  
chain of

**TRUST**  
Honor & Integrity System



Choice  
Learning  
Promise

# K-State Graduate Teaching Assistant

**“The louder he talked of his honor, the faster we counted spoons.”<sup>1</sup>**

PREVENTING Honor Pledge violations is a two-fold endeavor, involving both talking loudly about honor (education) and counting spoons (deterrence).

YOU, as a member of K-State's teaching faculty, are an integral part of a special effort to help promote academic integrity on our campus.

STUDIES<sup>2</sup> suggest that students listen to faculty when they express expectations about being honest in class work. Faculty members who take time to dialogue about plagiarism and cheating help students take the Honor Pledge seriously.

*~ Honor & Integrity Motto ~*  
**“Education,  
Consultation, Mediation,  
Adjudication—We Do It All With  
Student Development In Mind”**

<sup>1</sup>Ralph Waldo Emerson, “The Conduct of Life,” 1860, in Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, eds. John Bartlett and Justin Kaplan, 16th Ed. (Boston: Little, Brown, and Co.) 1992.

<sup>2</sup>Pascarella & Terrazini, “How College Affects Students,” 1991.

*We want faculty, GTAs, and other students at K-State to be familiar with Honor & Integrity System expectations/procedures. Please call/email us to set up a brief 15-minutes appointment in your office or talk to your class. We want to meet you and let you know how we can be of service to you.*

## Steps in Promoting Academic Integrity with Your Students

Communicate continually with the coordinating faculty of the class for which you are a GTA to develop cohesive and consistent messages for the students.

Educate students on proper standards of academic behavior, such as how to cite sources or take an “online” quiz. Help them become aware of integrity as it relates to the profession or discipline in which you teach.

Write a syllabus statement about K-State's Honor and Integrity System. A model is available at: <http://www.k-state.edu/provost/policies/course.htm>

Talk to students about what you consider “authorized” and “unauthorized” collaboration on assignments for your class. Let them know that other instructors may/may not have the same policies.

In situations that you feel academic dishonesty has occurred, take time to talk with the coordinating faculty member and willingly report violations of the Honor Pledge, using Option 1 or 2 found on the Violation Report.

<http://www.k-state.edu/honor/faculty/index.htm>

Quiz students on Honor and Integrity System Procedures.

## Examples of Academic Dishonesty

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism covers both unpublished as well as published sources. You must cite the source and even handing in the same paper in more than one class can be considered plagiarism.

**Falsification:** Falsification is submission of an academic exercise of falsified, invented, or fictitious data or evidence, or deliberate concealment or distortion of the true nature, origin, or function of such data or information.

**Unauthorized Collaboration:** Collaboration is having another person supply answers or questions from an exam, giving or receiving unauthorized aid on take-home exams, or collaboration with others on projects where individual work is expected.

**Unauthorized Aid:** Aid can be consultation of materials not to be used during a test such as cell phones, PDAs, programmable calculators as well as signing in another student's name on attendance sheets, rosters, or Scantrons.

This list of behaviors is not inclusive of all possible violations. **When in doubt** about the Honor Pledge, consult with your coordinating faculty, major professor, or call/email the Honor System office or visit our web site.

## Examples of Sanctions

Warning  
Reduced grade on assignment/paper  
Reduced grade on quiz/exam  
Zero on assignment/paper/quiz/exam  
Cap on course grade  
Development & Integrity Course  
(used alone or with any other sanction)

More detail on Academic Dishonesty & Sanctions can be found at <http://www.k-state.edu/honor>