KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
HONOR & INTEGRITY SYSTEM
Annual Report 2020-2021

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TRUST

KANSAS STATE | Honor and
U N I V E R S I T Y | Integrity System

CHOICE | LEARNING | PROMISE
HONOR@K-STATE.EDU | 785-532-2595
K-STATE.EDU/HONOR

Data Collected and Summarized on August 1, 2021

Summary

As of August 1, 2021, reporters (e.g., faculty, instructors, GTAs) had submitted 427 Honor Pledge Violation Reports that involved 491 students (467 unique individuals) since August 1, 2020. Of this total, 432 students did not contest the allegation and were found responsible; 24 students still have an open case; 20 students contested alleged violations; 4 were found responsible based on Option 2 procedure, and 11 students' allegations were dropped by the reporter. Of the 20 who contested, 9 were found responsible and 11 not-responsible. The number of students who were found responsible of a violation of the Honor Code in 2020-2021 is 432 (not contested) + 9 (contested) + 4 (Option 2) or 445 students.

Additional data include: plagiarism (24%), unauthorized collaboration (28%), and unauthorized aid (44%) continue as the most frequent alleged violations; 129 students were sanctioned to the Development and Integrity course (in comparison to 63 the previous year) and 134 total enrolled (in comparison to 67 in 2019-2020).

Introduction

The purpose of the Honor and Integrity System is to promote academic integrity as a standard expectation within the university community. The Honor and Integrity System pursues this mission through both education and adjudication. Article VI of the Honor and Integrity System Constitution requires the Director to provide an annual report to the Student Senate, Faculty Senate and the Provost and Senior Vice President. This annual report summarizes the activities of the Honor and Integrity System for the 2020-2021 academic year as well as provides a report on the administrative activities of the Director, Honor and Integrity System staff, and volunteer Honor Council during the reporting period.

Cases Reported

Within 2020-2021 academic year, the Honor and Integrity System processed 427 total Honor Pledge Violation Reports (as of August 1, 2021). This figure reflects only the violations officially reported to the system. It does not reflect informal consultation with reporters regarding alleged violations, nor Honor Code violations that faculty reporters choose to handle without recourse to the Honor and Integrity System. Kansas State University does not operate by a mandatory reporting policy for academic dishonesty. Rather, faculty are encouraged to report possible violations so that they and students alike can benefit from established due process and so that students with repeated violations are identified and properly sanctioned as a result.

During the reporting period, 427 cases were processed (Table 1), and 491 students were alleged to have committed Honor Code violations. Not unfrequently, reporters submit cases in which multiple violators are named. The number of cases processed is a function of many factors:

faculty discernment and decision making, the number of students associated with a particular case, and fluxuation in the actual (unknown) number of violations. It is as difficult to estimate the number of Honor Code violations that go unreported as it is to know how many go undetected.

Table 1. Total number of Honor Pledge alleged cases and students reported per academic year in past 10 years.

Academic Year	Cases	Students
10-11	154	188
11-12	132	166
12-13	207	265
13-14	197	285
14-15	157	190
15-16	297	343
16-17	150	187
17-18	173	230
18-19	162	195
19-20	349	396
20-21	427	491

Reporters who are the primary instructor for the course where the violation occurred have the authority to determine the appropriate sanctions for violating the Honor Code (Option 1 on Violation Report). Reporters determined the sanctions (Option 1 Case) for over 99% of the students identified as alleged violators. Reporters may also, however, request that the Honor and Integrity System determine if the Honor Code has been violated and, if so, appropriate sanctions (Option 2). Approximately 97% of all reported students did not contest the violation report. Twenty students contested alleged violations. Of these, eleven were found not responsible. Eleven students' allegations were dropped by the reporter after a report was filed (see Table 2).
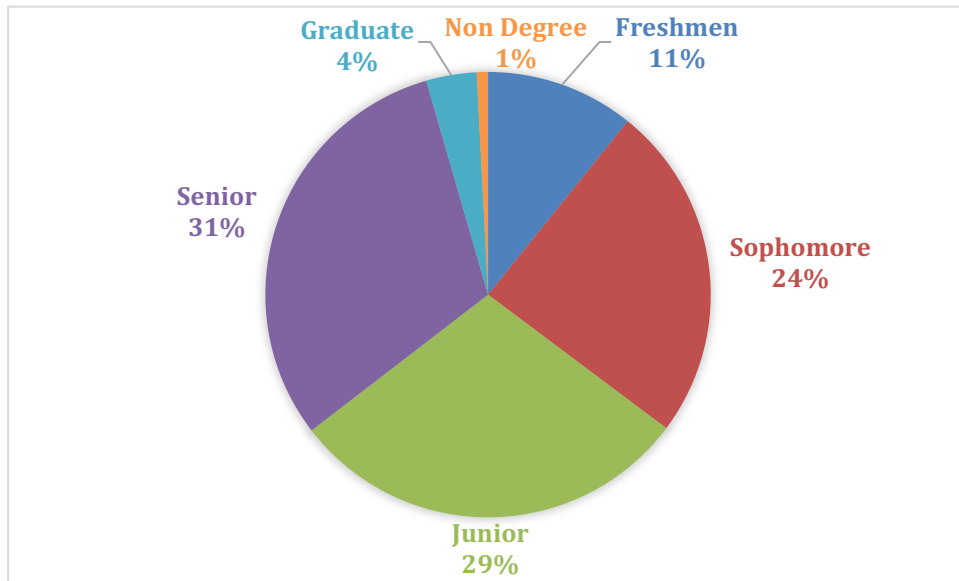
Table 2. Breakdown of Total Students Reported (including pending cases)

Contested - Found Responsible	9
Contested - Found Not Responsible	11
Not Contested	432
Option 2 - Found Responsible	4
Option 2 - Found Not Responsible	0
Dropped	11
Still Open	24
Total Students Reported	491

Alleged Violator Demographics

Alleged violators tended to be upperclassmen during the 2020-2021 academic year. There were 4 non-degree students reported

Figure 1. Classification of Reported Students (491 students total)
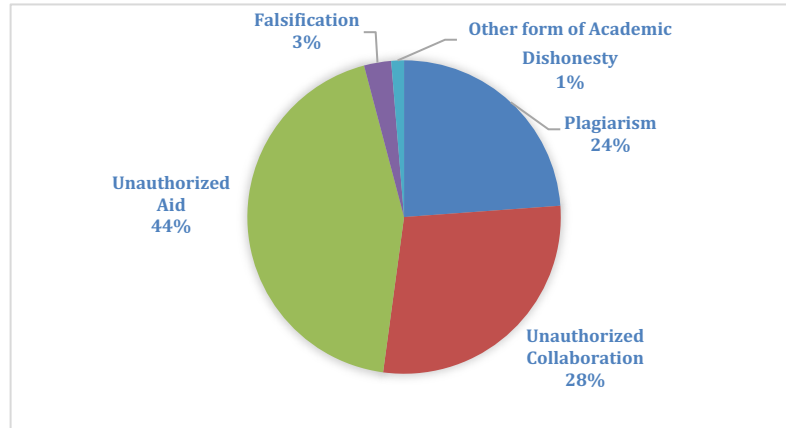

College Demographics

Table 3: College classification for Reporters (number is number of students reported)

College	Number
Agriculture	14
Architectue, Planning, and Design	13
Arts and Sciences	199
Business Adminstration	23
Education	12
Engineering	158
Health and Human Sciences	53
Polytechnic	19
Olathe	0

Details about Violations

In previous years, the most common violations were plagiarism or unauthorized collaboration; however, this year 44% of the cases were unauthorized aid (Figure 2).
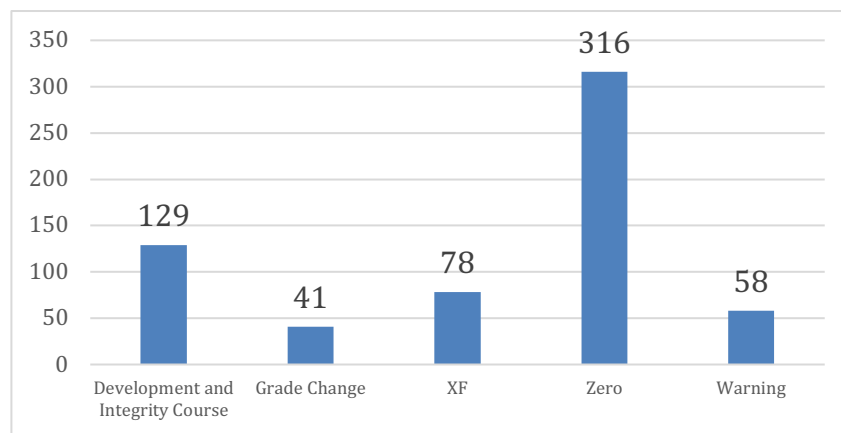
Figure 2 – Types of violations reported. *Plagiarism: Copying the work of others and presenting it as original. Unauthorized collaboration: Giving or receiving answers. Unauthorized Aid: Consulting unapproved resources. Falsification: Submitting work under false pretenses.   Other: Any other academic dishonesty.*

Details about Sanctions

Sanction(s) issued by reporters ranged from an XF to a verbal warning (Figure 3). Multiple sanctions are commonplace (e.g., zero on assignment plus required enrollment in the Development and Integrity course).

Figure 3. Breakdown of sanctions for students found responsible (does not include pending cases nor multiple violation sanctions). Student may be assigned more than one sanction.

Multiple Violations

Multiple violators are required to appear before a 5-member Honor Council panel called an Additional Sanctioning Hearing (ASH). During the 2020-2021 academic year, 24 students chose to violate the honor pledge more than one time during their tenure at K-State. Twenty-two

hearings were held, and two are planned for Fall 2021 (stemming from violations that occurred during or near Spring 2021 exam week or Summer 2021). The total of 24 ASHs is higher than normal (2019-2020 had 9 repeat violators). The Additional Sanctioning Hearings results in two suspensions and one expulsion from the university. The other hearings resulted in a combination of additional sanctions including permanent XFs, requirement to take the Development and Integrity course, using campus resources such as the writing center and academic coaching, and also no additional sanctions.

Educational Presentations

Educational presentations continued this academic year via zoom. A recorded presentation was also made available for faculty to use in their "classrooms".

Development and Integrity Course

During Fall 2020, 32 students completed the Development and Integrity course. Spring 2021 had 69 students and then the summer session in 2021 had 33 students. In total 134 students took the class this past academic year (as compared to 67 students in 2019-2020).

Honor Council

The Honor Council cannot be commended enough for their work during 2020-2021. They heard 15 hearings in early fall 2020 that were closing cases from the 2019-2020 academic year. They then heard 20 cases of the student who contested allegations and 22 additional sanctioning cases. All hearings were held via zoom.

Professional Activities

During the 2017-2018 academic year, Dr. Camilla Roberts completed her first full year as President of the International Center of Academic Integrity (ICAI). She will serve through March 2022 in the role of the President. She served as a lead for the international (virtual) ICAI Annual Conference in spring 2021 which had over 1400 attendees. She was asked to present for the virtual European Network for Academic Integrity conference and has been asked to speak at an academic integrity conference held at Universidad de Monterrey in Mexico. She was also called upon by a variety of media outlets to discuss the increase in academic violations during the pandemic as well as presenting multiple national webinars sponsored by OpenStax and Wiley publishers.

Office Administration

During the 2020-2021 academic year, Dr. Roberts worked with a graduate teaching assistant. The GA taught the fall and spring Development and Integrity Classes. For the 2021-2022 year, Courtney Keith, a PhD student in Student Affairs has been hired to serve in this capacity. The office also continues the collaboration with the Office of Student Life with student workers.

Activities of the Office

In Fall 2020, the office did hold a virtual Town Hall on Academic Integrity with a faculty member, two students and Dr. Roberts on the panel. It was moderated by the office's practicum student. A recording of the townhall is still available on the Honor and Integrity System website.

For Future Discussion

- Possible similarity checking software
- Staffing concerns (especially if there continues to be an increase or the numbers remain steady) to be able to work with prevention and education as well as adjudication
- Updates to the Constitution which will come through Faculty Sente
- Updates to the Investigation and Adjudication Procedures which go through the Honor Council
- ICAI's survey of the academic integrity climate at the university is launching this year. I would like to explore options to have K-State students take this survey to better understand the academic integrity climate/culture at the institution. The faculty-sided survey will be revised and ready for launch in 18 months.