

**KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
HONOR & INTEGRITY SYSTEM  
Annual Report to Provost, Faculty Senate and Student Senate  
2013-2014**



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## **Executive Summary**

Reporters (faculty, instructors, GTAs, etc.) submitted 194 Honor Code Violation Reports to the Kansas State University Honor & Integrity System (as of July 21). There were 281 students that were reported. The reporter investigated the situation and determined appropriate sanctions for about 90% of the cases. Thirty Honor Council hearing panels were convened to determine if a violation had occurred and, if appropriate, what the sanctions should be. Unauthorized collaboration was the most frequent violation (46% of cases) and XF was a sanction for 8% of the cases. Thirty-six educational presentations were made to over 2,500 students and about 150 faculty or staff. One-hundred and sixty-four students completed the Development and Integrity course.

## Introduction

The primary purpose of the Honor & Integrity System is to promote academic integrity as a standard of expectation within the university community. With this purpose in mind, the system seeks to promote academic integrity through both education and adjudication. Article VI of the Honor & Integrity System Constitution requires the Director to provide a report to Student Senate, Faculty Senate and the Provost annually. This report summarizes the activities of the Honor and Integrity System for the 2013/2014 academic year as well as provide a report of the system changes and administrative activities of the Director, Associate Director and Honor Council during the reporting period.

## Cases Reported

The Honor & Integrity System processed 194 Honor Pledge Violation Reports (July 21) including 12 cases that are currently being contested (Fig. 1, Table 1). Please note, the data presented reflect only the violations officially reported to the system. These data do not include informal consultation with faculty regarding violations not reported, nor does the data reflect instances discovered by faculty who choose to handle the violation themselves. It should also be noted, Kansas State University does not have a mandatory reporting policy for academic dishonesty. However, faculty should report violations which result in an academic sanction which adversely impacts the student's grade. The Honor & Integrity System has established procedures by which students may contest allegations of dishonest conduct which is not available to them otherwise. Also, students with repeated violations in various courses would be held more accountable through this university-wide unit.

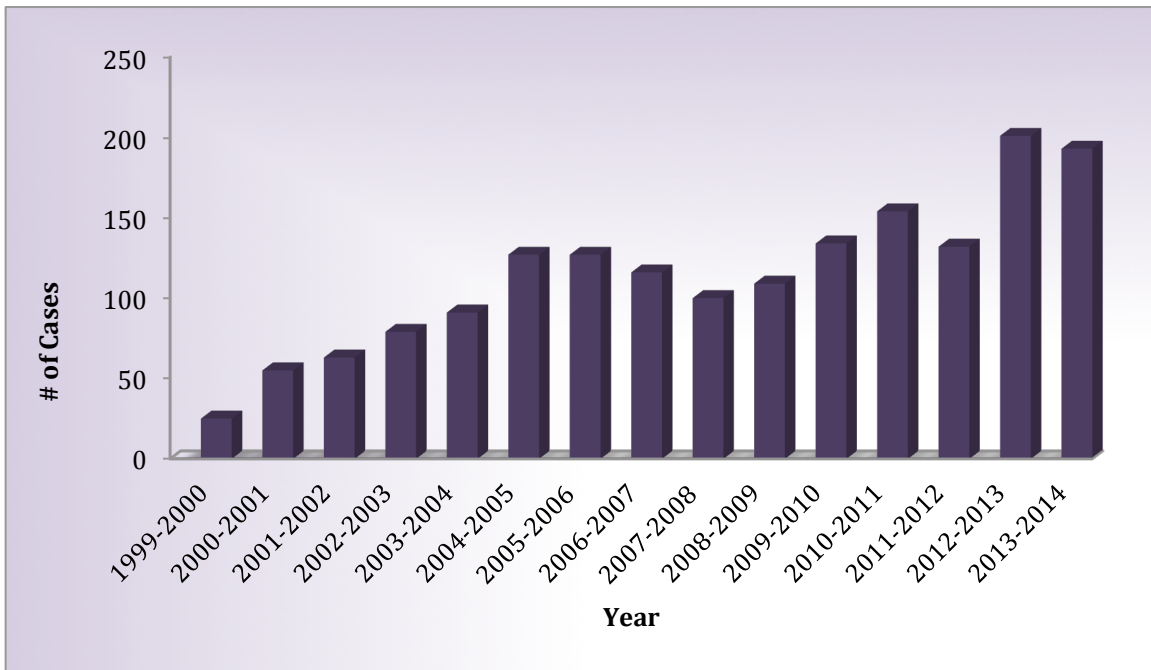


Figure 1. Total number of Honor Pledge alleged violations (cases) per academic year.

During the reporting period (still in progress), 281 students were alleged to have committed Honor Code violations (Table 1). Cases are frequently reported in which multiple violators are named as having violated together the academic integrity standards of the university. The number of cases we process is a function of many factors: faculty deciding to report incidences to our office, faculty identifying Honor Pledge violations, sometimes many students are associated with one case, and the number of violations that have occurred.

Table 1. Number of cases and students reported per academic year.

Academic Year	Cases	Students
1999-2000	25	33
2000-2001	55	91
2001-2002	63	103
2002-2003	79	104
2003-2004	91	232
2004-2005	127	162
2005-2006	127	170
2006-2007	116	150
2007-2008	100	127
2008-2009	109	123
2009-2010	134	181
2010-2011	154	188
2011-2012	132	166
2012-2013	207	265
*2013-2014	194	281

\*In Progress.

Reporters that are the primary instructor for the course where the violation occurred have the authority to determine what the appropriate sanctions are for violating the Honor Code (Option 1 on Violation Report). Reporters can also request the Honor and Integrity System to investigate situation, determine if Honor Pledge had been violated, and also determine appropriate sanctions (Option 2). Reporters determined the sanctions for about 90% of the submitted Violation Reports. About 93% of all reported students do not contest the violation report or are found responsible by an Honor Council panel (Fig. 2). About 5% of the students reported are found not responsible by an Honor Council panel (Fig. 2). Some key reasons for a not responsible decision have been: the alleged violator was able to show the panel that a fellow student took his or her work without permission, and unclear information in the course syllabus on what extent of collaboration was allowed.

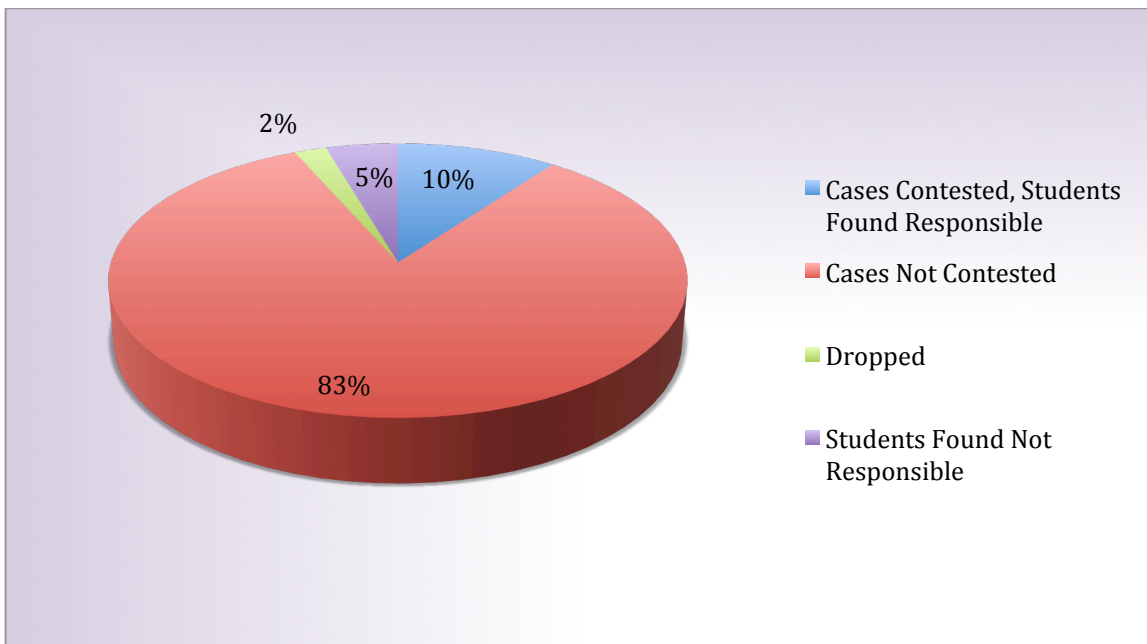


Figure 2. Information about percentage of cases contested compared to not contested.

### Alleged Violator Demographics

Of the 281 students reported in 2013-2014, 164 students were male and 102 were female (some did not report). Alleged violators were fairly evenly distributed between undergraduate classes (Fig. 3). There were 9 cases that involved graduate students (on-campus and distance students).

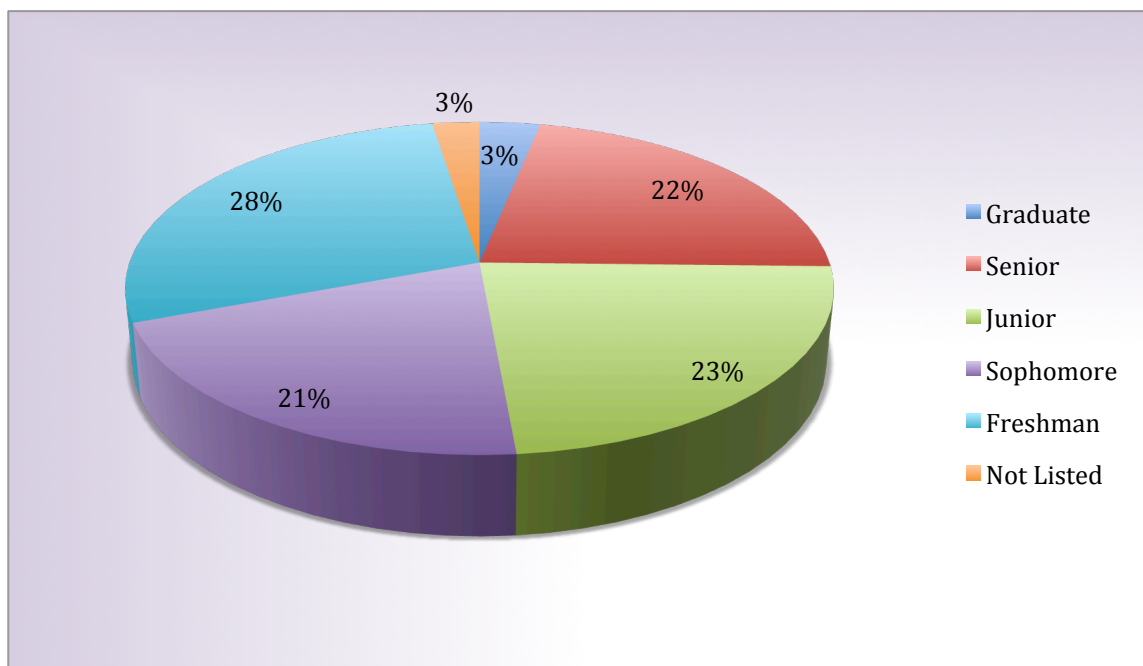


Figure 3. Breakdown of alleged violator's class.

### Faculty Demographics

Reports were received from all levels of teaching personnel (Fig. 4). Tenure track faculty constituted 54% of the violation reports received while instructors and Graduate Teaching Assistants accounted for 42%.

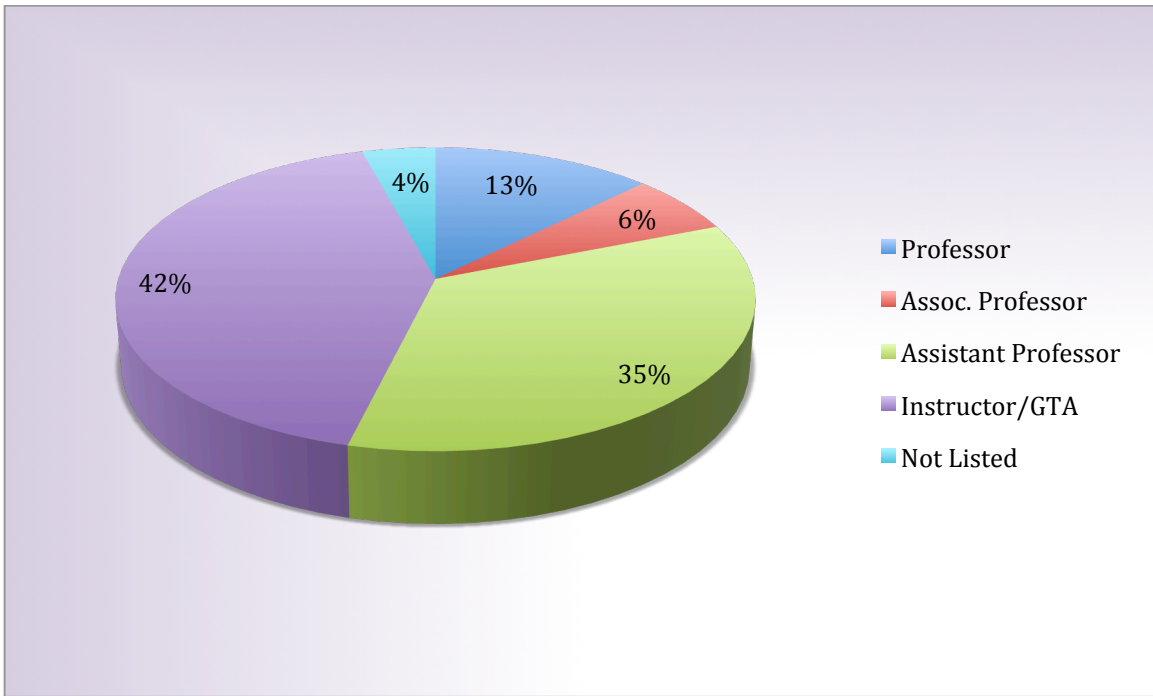


Figure 4: Breakdown of reporter's position at Kansas State University.

### Details about Violations

Most violations were students giving or receiving answers from others (Fig. 5). Classic plagiarism was another common violation.

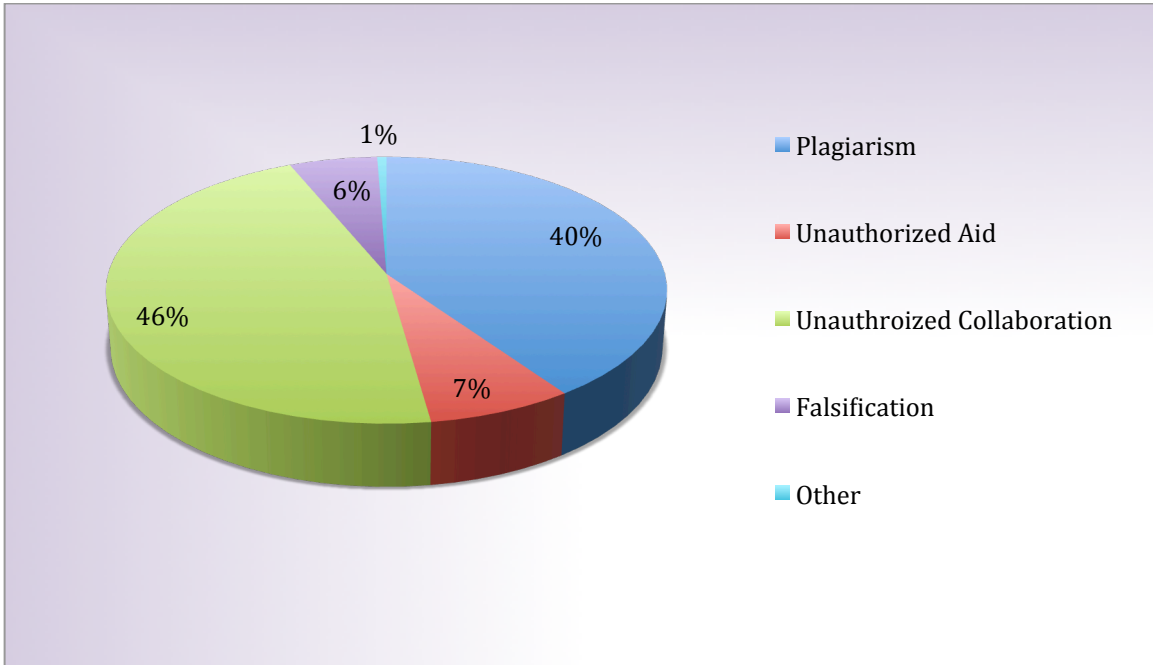


Figure 5. Breakdown on alleged violations. Plagiarism: Copying the work of others and presenting it as original. Unauthorized collaboration: Giving or receiving answers. Unauthorized Aid: Consulting unapproved resources. Falsification: Submitting work under false pretenses.

In a more unusual situation, a senior student was reported to have elaborately authored and concealed unauthorized notes that were used while taking an exam. The reporter submitted the

violation report as an Option 2 (Honor Council panel determines sanctions if found responsible) and recommended expulsion. The Department Head and Dean of the college wrote supporting letters for expulsion if student was found responsible for violating the Honor Pledge as described in the violation report. The student was found responsible, the Honor Council panel decided to recommend expulsion to the Provost, the student appealed the Honor Council decision, I denied the appeal and approved of the expulsion recommendation, and the Provost's final decision was to expel the student.

**Details about Sanctions**

Sanctions issued by reporters ranged from an XF to a verbal warning (Fig. 6).

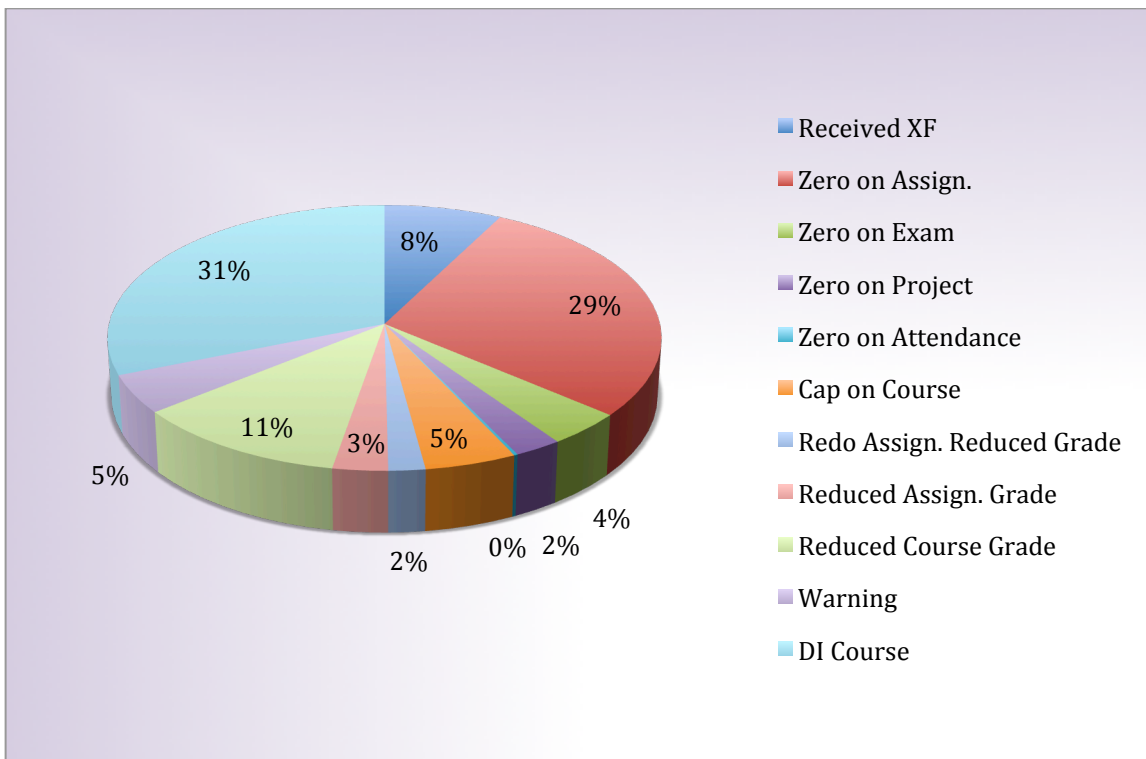


Figure 6. Breakdown of sanctions. An alleged violator may receive more than one sanction. For example, requiring the Development and Integrity Course and issuing an XF are commonly given together.

**Multiple Violations**

There were 10 students that had previously been reported to the Honor and Integrity System. These students were required to appear before a hearing panel to determine if further sanctions were needed (Additional Sanctioning Hearing). Almost all of these students received additional sanctions because of having violated the Honor Pledge multiple times (i.e., permanent XF grades: 3, expulsion recommendations to Provost: 1, suspension recommendations to Provost: 0).

**Educational Presentations**

From August, 2013 through July, 2014, the office conducted 36 presentations related to academic integrity and honesty. Through these 36 presentations, approximately 2500 students and 150 faculty/staff were informed of the Honor and Integrity System. These presentations ranged from 10-15 minutes to multiple hour workshops.

### **Development and Integrity Course**

During the fall 2013 semester, the Development and Integrity Course continued as an 8-week (meeting twice a week) course. During the first 8-week course, 13 students were enrolled in the face-to-face course offering. All students successfully completed the course. Eleven additional students enrolled in and successfully completed the class during the second eight-weeks of the fall semester. During the second eight weeks, an online component was offered with 7 students (all completing) enrolled.

During the spring 2014 semester, Dawn Lesperance taught all sections of the course during Dr. Roberts' maternity leave. During the semester, 25 students enrolled during the first eight weeks (with all successfully completing) and 43 students were enrolled (all successfully completed) during the second eight weeks face-to-face courses (2 sections). An additional 33 students enrolled (29 successfully completing: 1 D, 2 Fs, and 1 W) in the online component during the second eight weeks of the semester. The summer session of the Development and Integrity class was delivered in an online format, meeting every day online from May 19-June 6, 2014. Thirty-two students were enrolled in the class.

In summary, during the 2013-2014 academic year, 92 students enrolled in the face-to-face component while 72 enrolled in the online component. Compared to the previous years of 95 students enrolled in the face-to-face component while 60 enrolled in the online in 2012-2013 and 71 students enrolled in the face-to-face offerings and 25 completed the online component in 2011-2012.

### **Changes to Investigation and Adjudication Processes**

The Honor Council and Provost approved of major changes to the Investigation and Adjudication processes. The excessive workload for the Honor Council for the last few years had caused a long delay in getting some cases resolved (some around 12 months). The old process required seven Honor Council members per contested case. This was fine when there were about 10 hearing per year. Now we have around 20 to 30 hearings per year. The new process of three Honor Council members serving on a Case Review Board has proven to be far more efficient and just as thorough as previous format.

### **Other Activities**

Dr. Starrett presented a paper entitled, "Case Studies of Contested Honor Pledge Violations" authored by Drs. Starrett, Roberts and Trey Hill at the 6<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Conference on Educational Integrity in Sydney, Australia.

### **Future Activities**

Drs. Starrett and Roberts plan to continue usual activities: work with faculty and students on alleged violations, teach the Development and Integrity course, conduct hearings, and work with the Honor Council in reviewing operating guidelines. The Honor Council has approved a significant expansion and the proposal is currently under review by Faculty Senate. We also plan to visit many departments at both K-State campuses to have a brief update and refresher conversation about the Honor & Integrity System.