

Honor Committee Survey 2008 - Overall Frequencies

Which of the following sources of news about the University community do you consult regularly?

	Count	% of respondents
The University website	473	52.5%
The Cavalier Daily	413	45.8%
Other student media	83	9.2%
Conversations with others	616	68.3%
Emails from University administration	632	70.1%
Total	901	245.9%

Percentages may add up to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one option.

Of the five weekly issues of the Cavalier Daily, how many do you usually read?

	Count	%	Mean
0	359	39.5%	
1	190	20.9%	
2	145	15.9%	
3	118	13.0%	
4	53	5.9%	
5	45	4.9%	
Total	910	100.0%	2,40

Which section of the Cavalier Daily do you usually read?

	Count	% of respondents
The front page news section	517	57.9%
The sports section	251	28.1%
The opinion section	241	27.0%
I do not read the Cavalier Daily.	306	34.3%
Other	92	10.3%
Total	892	157.6%

Percentages may add up to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one option.

In general, how do you feel about

	the effectiveness of the Honor System in discouraging acts of academic and personal dishonesty by students?		the Honor System at the University of Virginia?	
	Count	%	Count	%
Very positive	222	24.6%	383	42.3%
Somewhat positive	385	42.6%	333	36.7%
Neutral	141	15.6%	109	12.0%
Somewhat negative	126	14.0%	67	7.4%
Very negative	29	3.2%	16	1.7%
Total	904	100.0%	907	100.0%

If you have had experience with the honor systems of other schools or institutions, do you believe the UVa Honor System is more or less effective at encouraging student honesty?

	Count	%
The University of Virginia's system is more effective.	245	28.8%
The other system(s) was(were) about as effective as the University of Virginia's honor system.	158	18.7%
The University of Virginia's system is less effective.	47	5.6%
I have not had any experience with other honor systems.	398	46.9%
Total	849	100.0%

Has your impression of the Honor System changed during your time here at the University?

	Count	%
Yes, it has improved.	129	15.8%
Yes, it has declined.	236	28.9%
No, it has not changed.	452	55.3%
Total	818	100.0%

Why do you think it has changed?

	Count	% of respondents
Personal experience with the system	108	29.8%
I see many offenses go unreported.	122	33.5%
News coverage of the system	50	13.9%
Opinion coverage of the system by student or other media	77	21.2%
Referendum campaigns before student elections	40	11.1%
Viewing an open Honor Trial	17	4.8%
Taking the Honor and Ethics seminar	8	2.3%
Talking with other students about the System	215	59.2%
Attended an education event on the Honor System	23	6.4%
I do not feel trusted not to lie, cheat or steal by faculty, students, or community members.	68	18.6%
Experience with faculty or professors	80	21.9%
My opinion of the Honor's Committee sanctioning system (the single sanction) has changed.	121	33.2%
Not sure	12	3.3%
Other	47	13.1%
Total	363	272.3%

Percentages may add up to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one option.

If you have viewed an open Honor Trial in your time at the University, how did it affect your opinion of the System?

	Count	%
I felt more positive about the System generally.	39	4.3%
I felt more negative about the System generally.	15	1.7%
My opinion did not change.	21	2.3%
I have not viewed an open Honor Trial.	835	91.8%
Total	910	100.0%

Do you feel you are afforded benefits and privileges due to the existence of the Honor System at the University of Virginia?

	Count	%
Yes, many	233	28.0%
Yes, a few	500	59.9%
No	101	12.2%
Total	834	100.0%

Which of the following benefits or privileges do you feel you have received?

	Count	% of respondents
Take unprotected exams	540	59.5%
Take exams outside the classroom or at home	615	67.8%
Write checks to local merchants	75	8.3%
Bring your backpack and other items into the University Bookstore	561	61.8%
Reschedule exams and other deadlines with your word alone	275	30.4%
Vouch for a student without his or her ID in order to enter a University faculty	170	18.8%
Leave items unattended in University public spaces without fear of theft	415	45.7%
Have lost items returned	227	25.0%
Take out a short-term Honor Loan	32	3.6%
Trust the word of fellow students	272	30.0%
I do not feel I received benefits or privileges because of the Honor System.	74	8.2%
Not sure	36	4.0%
Other	19	2.1%
Total	907	365.1%

Percentages may add up to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one option.

As a student, would you report an Honor case if you witnessed a clear Honor offense?

	Count	%
Yes	401	44.1%
No	48	5.3%
It would depend on the person involved.	230	25.2%
Not sure	231	25.4%
Total	910	100.0%

Would any of the following factors deter you from initiating an Honor case against a student you believed was guilty of an Honor offense?

	Count	% of respondents
Uneasiness about possibly causing the dismissal of another student	563	62.4%
Fear of legal reprisal or other legal problems	166	18.4%
I do not believe in the Honor System generally.	27	3.0%
A personal relationship with the person committing the offense	531	58.9%
Reporting and following through with a case is too time-consuming	200	22.2%
I do not believe in the single sanction.	204	22.6%
The seriousness of the offense	537	59.5%
None of the above	46	5.1%
Not sure	73	8.1%
Other	40	4.5%
Total	903	264.7%

Percentages may add up to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one option.

Have you participated in a conversation about the Honor System or the Honor Committee this semester?

	Count	%
Yes	363	39.8%
No	551	60.2%
Total	914	100.0%

What was the subject matter of the most recent conversation?

	Count	% of respondents
Racial concerns	87	24.1%
Legal concerns	59	16.5%
Personal experiences with the Honor System	126	35.0%
The single sanction	227	63.0%
Random student jury panels	71	19.6%
The Honor pledge	142	39.4%
Reporting in the Cavalier Daily or other publications	73	20.3%
Representative elections or referendum	55	15.3%
Whether or not a certain act is considered and Honor offense	173	47.9%
Support officer participation	57	15.8%
Not sure	36	9.9%
Other	34	9.4%
Total	360	316.2%

Percentages may add up to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one option.

Single Sanction

		Count	%
The Honor System currently has a single sanction; any student who is found guilty committing a non-trivial act of lying, cheating, or stealing with dishonest intent is asked to leave the University. How do you feel about this sanction?	I fully support the single sanction.	236	29.4%
	I support the sanction with some reservations.	328	41.0%
	I do not support the single sanction at all.	220	27.5%
	Other (please describe.)	16	2.0%
	Total	801	100.0%
If the Honor System changed the single sanction to a multiple sanction system, what do you believe the effect would be on the System's ability to reduce acts of academic and personal dishonesty by students?	The Honor System would be far less capable of reducing student dishonesty.	165	18.1%
	The Honor System would be somewhat less capable of reducing student dishonesty.	246	27.0%
	The Honor System would be somewhat more capable of reducing student dishonesty.	204	22.4%
	The Honor System would be far more capable of reducing student dishonesty.	83	9.1%
	A multiple sanction system would not change the Honor System's ability to reduce student dishonesty.	213	23.4%
	Total	910	100.0%
To what extent do you agree that open toleration of any act of intentional academic cheating would harm the community of trust?	Strongly agree	393	45.4%
	Agree	349	40.4%
	Neutral	84	9.7%
	Disagree	38	4.3%
	Strongly disagree	2	.2%
	Total	866	100.0%

If your opinion of the single sanction has changed significantly since you came to the University, which of the following contributed the most to the change?

	Count	% of respondents
Conversation with other students	254	28.9%
Personal experience with the Honor System	79	8.9%
Coverage in student media	96	10.9%
Conversations with faculty members	82	9.3%
Viewing an open trial	17	1.9%
Alumni opinion	20	2.3%
My opinion has not changed significantly.	555	63.2%
Other	31	3.6%
Total	878	129.0%

Percentages may add up to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one option.

To what extent do you agree with the following statement: the Honor System treats all students fairly, regardless of race, gender, national origin or athletic status?

	Count	%
Strongly agree	197	26.5%
Agree	268	35.9%
Neutral	148	19.8%
Disagree	90	12.0%
Strongly disagree	42	5.7%
Total	745	100.0%

Witnessing and Reporting Offenses

		Count	%
Do you believe you have witnessed an Honor offense?	Yes	205	28.5%
	No	513	71.5%
	Total	718	100.0%
Did you report the offense to the Honor Committee?	Yes	5	2.4%
	No	174	85.4%
	I reported the offense to a member of the faculty rather than the Honor Committee.	25	12.2%
	Total	204	100.0%

Why did you not report the Honor offense to the Honor Committee?

	Count	% of respondents
I did not want to be responsible for dismissing another student.	110	56.1%
I feared potential legal reprisal.	11	5.6%
The person involved was a friend.	71	36.1%
I think the process is too time-consuming.	39	19.6%
I took it to the professor or teaching assistant to report it.	16	8.0%
I did not think the offense was serious enough to warrant an initiation.	111	56.2%
I did not think there was enough evidence that the offense was committed.	63	32.3%
I was unsure how to go about initiating a case.	38	19.4%
I did not want to get involved.	83	42.3%
Not sure	1	.5%
Other	24	12.1%
Total	197	288.1%

Percentages may add up to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one option.

Do you believe you have committed an Honor offense while a student at the University?

	Count	%
Yes	51	6.0%
No	679	80.5%
Maybe	114	13.5%
Total	844	100.0%

Knowledge of the Honor System

	How informed do you feel about the Honor System's procedure for investigating and trying Honor offenses?		In general, how well informed do you feel by your professors about their expectations regarding academic honesty in your classes?	
	Count	%	Count	%
Very informed	88	10.1%	512	57.2%
Somewhat informed	345	39.6%	325	36.4%
Not very well-informed	318	36.5%	47	5.3%
Not at all informed	121	13.9%	10	1.2%
Total	873	100.0%	895	100.0%

Did you watch the "On My Honor" video?

	Count	%
Yes	317	37.6%
No	262	31.1%
I don't remember receiving the video	264	31.3%
Total	843	100.0%

Events hosted by the Honor Committee

		Count	%
Of the following events on the Honor System, which would you most likely attend?	A Roundtable discussion you are personally invited to attend	173	21.0%
	An Awareness Week barbecue on the Lawn	264	32.1%
	An open forum or panel discussion	78	9.5%
	A Committee meeting	30	3.6%
	I would not attend any of these events	265	32.2%
	Other (please describe)	14	1.6%
	Total	822	100.0%
When would you most prefer to attend such events?	Lunchtime during the week	174	28.0%
	Dinnertime during the week	194	31.2%
	Weeknights after dinnertime	108	17.4%
	Lunchtime on weekends	89	14.2%
	Dinnertime on weekends	33	5.3%
	Weekend nights after dinnertime	12	2.0%
	Other (please describe)	11	1.8%
	Total	622	100.0%

How can the Honor Committee better educate the student body about the Honor System?

	Count	% of respondents
Show the Honor video during a first-year orientation event	421	46.3%
Small group discussions about the Honor System during orientation	360	39.6%
Have Committee members attend student organization meetings and give a short presentation	188	20.7%
A weekly column in the Cavalier Daily discussing Honor issues and concerns	377	41.5%
A speaker series including interesting and influential alumni discussing honor and what it means to them	151	16.7%
Require all first-year students to take the Honor and Ethics seminar	217	23.8%
Have mini-Honor System educational seminars with opportunities for open discussion throughout the year	152	16.7%
Provide more information regarding the outcome of Honor proceedings	398	43.8%
Not sure/Not applicable	115	12.6%
Total	909	261.7%

Percentages may add up to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one option.

**Which of the following issues would you most like to see
the Honor Committee focus on in the future?**

	Count	% of respondents
Addressing the frequency with which students and/or faculty fail to report students suspected of committing an Honor offense	297	34.0%
Increasing and protecting the number of benefits students receive as a result of living in a Community of Trust	371	42.5%
Eliminate the requirement that an act of academic dishonesty be found 'non-trivial' before it constitutes an Honor offense.	63	7.2%
Ending the single sanction	296	33.9%
Streamlining the procedures for investigating and trying Honor offenses	105	12.1%
Instituting a rule that students must report suspicion of an Honor offense to the Committee	52	6.0%
Increasing the diversity of the Honor Committee and/or support officer pools	137	15.6%
Better educating the community about the Honor System	371	42.5%
Addressing the disproportionate rate at which minority students and/or athletes are reported for Honor offenses	185	21.2%
Other	41	4.7%
Total	874	219.6%

Percentages may add up to more than 100% because respondents could choose more than one option.