

# College of Engineering Honor Code

## *Preamble*

Society demands that engineers protect the public safety and act in an honest and trustworthy manner. Ethics guidelines established by the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) and the Texas Society of Professional Engineers (TSPE) codify these standards of ethical behavior:

*Engineering is an important and learned profession. As members of this profession, engineers are expected to exhibit the highest standards of honesty and integrity. Engineering has a direct and vital impact on the quality of life for all people. Accordingly, the services provided by engineers require honesty, impartiality, fairness, and equity, and must be dedicated to the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. Engineers must perform under a standard of professional behavior that requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct.*

### I. Fundamental Canon

*Engineers, in the fulfillment of their professional duties, shall:*

- 1. Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public.*
- 2. Perform services only in areas of their competence.*
- 3. Issue public statements only in an objective and truthful manner.*
- 4. Act for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees.*
- 5. Avoid deceptive acts.*
- 6. Conduct themselves honorably, responsibly, ethically, and lawfully so as to enhance the honor, reputation, and usefulness of the profession.*

(NSPE, 2010, <http://www.nspe.org/Ethics/CodeofEthics/index.html>)

Recognizing the critical nature of ethical conduct in the Engineering Profession, the College of Engineering has established this Honor Code to govern the behavior of engineering students being trained to enter this licensed profession.

Students are responsible for understanding the Honor Code and course policies. Should students discover an ambiguity related to course policies, they should request clarification from their instructor.

## *Policy*

All students are presumed to be decent and honorable, and the Honor Code binds all students. Students may not seek to gain an unfair advantage over other students; students may not consult, look at, or possess the unpublished work of another without their permission; and they must appropriately acknowledge use of another's work. Any violation of course honor policies shall be reported. Each student has a duty to report violations. Questions about the course policy should be directed to course instructors.

The UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOOP) requires that students submit work that fairly and honestly reflects their own labor and thoughts. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Both students and faculty should be aware of expectations regarding academic integrity. These are broadly described in a supplementary document titled "Expectations for Student Academic Integrity" and detailed in Section 2, Chapter I of the HOOP. See <http://admin.utep.edu/hoop>.

## *Enforcement*

The Honor Code is in force whether or not a faculty member is present. Enforcing the Honor Code is an ethical obligation for all students, including third parties who might witness instances of ethical misconduct.

The *Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution* is responsible for judging allegations of student misconduct. Students are encouraged to report violations of this honor code to their instructors or university administrators.

Since academic integrity affects the entire institution, it is critical that allegations be properly documented and assessed. While UTEP respects the confidentiality of individuals, institutional policies must be transparent. Towards that end, faculty who report allegations of misconduct are encouraged to consult with their department chair and program directors throughout the process.

# *Honor Code Agreement*

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As a student in the College of Engineering at The University of Texas at El Paso, I agree to abide by the College Honor Code, and I fully understand the following requirements.

As a student:

- I shall maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity.
- I acknowledge that students share responsibility for upholding academic honesty and recognize an ethical obligation to report violations of the Honor Code to appropriate university officials.
- I understand the University has disciplinary power in the matter of academic dishonesty up to removal from the University.
- I accept that disciplinary action may include loss of any certificate or degree conferred by the University.

Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# *Supplementary Documents*

The honor code includes three supplementary documents:

**Honor Code Motivations:** Describes the motivations for adopting this honor code.

**Expectations for Student Academic Integrity:** Describes the default expectations of course policies and student behaviors related to academic integrity. Instructors should clearly and explicitly elaborate significant variations from these standards and expectations.

**Implementation Ideas for Instructors:** Describes prototype policies that may be adopted by an instructor or department.