Mason shares in the tradition of an honor system that has existed in Virginia since 1842. Mason's Honor System was inaugurated in 1963 when the college was a satellite of the University of Virginia. The code is an integral part of university life. On the application for admission, students sign a statement agreeing to conform to and uphold the Honor Code. Students are responsible, therefore, for understanding the code's provisions. In the spirit of the code, a student's word is a declaration of good faith acceptable as truth in all academic matters. Cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing in academic matters constitute Honor Code violations. To maintain an academic community according to these standards, students and faculty members must report all alleged violations to the Honor Committee.

The Honor Committee has the primary duty of espousing the values of the Honor Code. Its secondary function is to sit as a hearing committee on all alleged violations of the code.

Honor Code
To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code:

Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

A full reading of the Honor Code and the associated system can be found at our website (http://oai.gmu.edu).

Please note there is a separate process for individuals accused of research misconduct. As it states in policy 4007, "Allegations of academic misconduct against graduate students are governed solely by the university honor code, except for:

1. research activities as defined above regardless of sponsorship; and
2. master's theses and doctoral dissertations, both of which are governed by this policy.

Allegations of academic misconduct against undergraduate students are governed solely by the university honor code, except for sponsored research activities which are governed by this policy." Questions related to research misconduct that fall under this category should be directed to the Office of Research Integrity and Assurance at irb@gmu.edu

Faculty Responsibilities
At the beginning of each semester, faculty members have the responsibility of explaining to their classes their policy regarding the Honor code. They must also explain the extent to which aid, if any, is permitted in academic work. Faculty members are also responsible for including in their syllabus an academic integrity statement as outlined by the Provost's office at the start of each academic semester. Additional language should include what constitutes acceptable behavior for the course they are teaching.

Procedures for Reporting Violations and Record Keeping
All suspected violations must be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity in a timely manner. Instructions on how to submit a referral can be found on the office's website (http://oai.gmu.edu). The student will be notified in writing that a referral has been made and meet with a staff member in the office to review the case materials and decide the next course of action. Findings of responsibility in Honor Code cases are maintained by the Office of Academic Integrity in accordance with the Library of Virginia Records Management schedule.