

FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE

Statement of Honor

Upon becoming a member of the Francis Marion University Community, students are expected to behave with honor and integrity in a manner that reflects the values of the institution. Students must interact in a civil manner, both in and out of the classroom, treating all persons and property with respect. Upon enrollment at Francis Marion University, students pledge not to lie, cheat, or steal. They also pledge not to violate the FMU Honor Code or any civil/criminal laws. Inasmuch as honor and integrity serve to define one's character, the university community expects that students will not tolerate the aforementioned behaviors in others and will exhibit reasonable judgment in reporting students who violate the FMU Honor Code.

The Honor Pledge

"As a student at Francis Marion University, I pledge to obey the FMU Honor Code and civil and criminal laws. I pledge not to lie, cheat, or steal. I will encourage others to respect the Honor Code and will exhibit reasonable judgment in reporting students who violate it."

Philosophy and Purpose

The FMU Honor Code consists of academic and student conduct sections and contains the expectations, policies, and procedures that apply to all Francis Marion University students. These sections are designed to support the educational mission of the University, to protect the University community from disruption and harm, and to maintain appropriate standards of individual and group behavior. The sections should be read broadly and are not intended to define misconduct in exhaustive terms.

Authority of the University

The University reserves the right to take all necessary and appropriate steps to protect the safety and well being of the campus community. Any act committed by a student, whether on or off campus, which is determined by the University to be a threat to the safety or well-being of the community or which is disruptive to the primary purposes of the University may result in the University taking action in accordance with community standards. Student, for the purpose of this policy, is defined to mean a person enrolled for one or more hours of academic credit, or in a noncredit course or courses offered in the name of the University; or a person admitted or seeking admission to the University if action is related to University admission, function, or event. Violations by non-students may result in restricted access to campus or University events. Non-students are expected to abide by these policies as well. It is the responsibility of the student host of the nonstudent to make his or her guest aware of these behavioral expectations.

Benefits of the Honor Code

- Creates a supportive peer environment that affirms honesty and discourages cheating
- Creates pride in belonging to a community with strong values and standards

- Promotes student ownership and responsibility in an atmosphere of mutual trust
- Promotes responsibility and civility among students
- Supports systems within the University and ties the campus community together
- Lasts beyond graduation, encouraging a lifelong adherence to the Honor Code
- Instills community trust in students and graduates of the University

Civility in the Classroom

The classroom is an integral component of the educational community, and FMU strives to provide an environment appropriate to the University setting. Students are expected to interact in a civil manner, treating all persons with respect, and to adhere to behavioral standards contained in the respective course syllabi. Disruption of classroom instruction by students is not tolerated and will result in the removal of the disruptive student or students from class. Disruptive or uncivil behavior in the classroom may result in appropriate disciplinary action, which could include suspension, expulsion, or other University sanctions.

Reporting of Violations

Students may report possible Academic Conduct violations to the instructor in question, the appropriate Department Chair or Dean, the Office of the Provost, or the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. Students reporting possible academic violations have the right of confidentiality. Students may refer possible Student Conduct violations to Campus Police or to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Those making such referrals are required to provide information pertinent to the case.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT

A primary responsibility of an instructor is to certify that a specific academic assignment has been mastered sufficiently to merit college credit. An inseparable part of this responsibility is to take all possible precautions to ensure that the credit has not been attained by fraud. The instructor should rigorously enforce honesty concerning all academic work submitted by his/her students for evaluation. While it is difficult to define precisely and all inclusively all aspects of academic dishonesty, the following statements should serve as a guide.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to, wrongfully giving, taking or presenting any information or material by a student with the intent of aiding him/herself or any other person on any academic work which is considered in any way in the determination of the final grade. Plagiarism involves the use of the ideas or writings of another without acknowledgment of that use. A more detailed description of these two forms of academic dishonesty, and how allegations of academic dishonesty are handled, are described below.

1. All academic work, written or otherwise submitted by a student to his/her instructor or other academic supervisor is