



Title: Honor Code System

Policy
 No.: ADM 3.17

Date: 6/26/08
 Rev.: 6/28/10, 8/1/13, 8/1/15, 8/1/16

Areas Affected: All BSMCON Faculty & Students

Page 1 of 4

I. Statement of Philosophy

The Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing believes that integrity is essential to the practice of nursing and the pursuit of education. The Honor System is a code of internal ethics designed to assure the preservation of personal and group integrity, and to provide an opportunity for self-government and self-discipline. Nothing contained in the Honor System Policy shall be deemed to create any basis for a cause of action in any form outside the internal procedures established by the Honor System Policy. Each student must assume responsibility for acting honorably in all situations and upholding the policies, rules, and regulations of BSMCON. Lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and failure to report an honor offense are considered violations of the Honor System, for which a student may be the subject of corrective measures, up to expulsion.

II. The Honor Pledge

Acceptance of admission to BSMCON also constitutes acceptance of the Honor System. In addition, the following short Honor Pledge statement will be written on all graded work and signed by the student:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment or test, and I pledge that I am in compliance with the BSMCON Honor System.”
 or the abbreviated statement of, ***“I pledge”***

III. Honor Officials

A. Honor Council Members

1. Members of the Honor Council include: Council Chair, Council representatives, the President of the Student Government Organization (SGO), and any “alternate” representatives or elected members of the SGO.
2. Each Honor Council member must be a student in good standing and each member is charged with fully understanding the Honor System and displaying ethical behavior at all times.
3. In the event of the absence of any required Honor Council member, the Honor Council Chair will appoint an alternate/designee.
4. Honor Council members have the obligation to relinquish their role if prior involvement with the accused or the situation would prevent an objective opinion.
5. The members of the Honor Council must exhibit integrity and impartiality, maintain confidentiality, and demonstrate knowledge of the Honor System.
6. Honor Council Representative is a year round commitment; fall, spring and summer semesters, as needed.

Approved by:

 Signature

Dean of Student Services
 Provost/VP
 Title

5/26/16
 6.7.16
 Date

Approval History:

Committees and Dates:
 Dean of Student Services – 6/10; 4/13
 Student Government Organization- 6/10
 Policy Committee – 6/10, 4/15/13, 4/20/15, 3/14/16

B. Honor Advisor and Honor Sponsor

1. Honor Advisors and the Honor Sponsor are employees of BSMCON in good standing who serve as liaisons, consultants, and educators to the student body, faculty, and administration on matters related to the Honor System. The role of Advisor and Sponsor is as follows: the Honor Advisor is a SGO Advisor and the Honor Sponsor is the Dean of Student Services.
2. The Advisor and the Sponsor have full access to all information regarding the specific honor violation, the hearing, decision and recommended corrective measure(s).

IV. Violations of the Honor Code

Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Honor Code at all times during which they are engaged in their studies, clinical work or representing BSMCON.

At BSMCON the basic categories of honor violations include, but are not limited to:

- A. **Lying** –Transferring, transmitting or communicating any false statements. Examples of lying include, but are not limited to, such actions as:
 1. Making a false statement to any employee of Bon Secours.
 2. Falsifying evidence or testifying falsely during any hearings.
 3. Altering records or other official College materials.
- B. **Cheating** –Giving, receiving, offering or soliciting information on tests or assignments, not authorized by the instructor. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, such actions as:
 1. Copying from another student's paper.
 2. Use during a test of any materials not authorized by the individual administering the examination.
 3. Working with another student on any test, quiz, care plan, or any assignment when the instructor has expected independent and unaided effort.
 4. Buying, selling, possessing, soliciting, transmitting, or using a test or any material purported to be or proven to be unreleased or previously released contents of any instructor-created test, quiz, or examination.
 5. Bribery, solicitation, or bullying of any person to obtain examination information.
- C. **Stealing** - Taking or attempting to take, without right or permission. Examples of stealing include, but are not limited to, the following actions:
 1. Taking library books or journals, exams, computer programs, or any other academic materials.
 2. Destroying, hiding, or otherwise making unavailable for common use, library, computer, or other reference materials.
- D. **Plagiarism** –To steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own, without crediting the source.
Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following actions:
 1. Quoting word for word from a source without using quotation marks, footnotes, or bibliographic citation.
 2. Summarizing and paraphrasing ideas without acknowledging the source.
 3. Submitting work for credit which has not been written by the student.
- E. **Failure to Report** - When behavior suspicious of an Honor Code violation is not brought to the attention of Honor officials for investigation.
- F.

V. Reporting Violations of the Honor Code

- A. **Obligation to Report.** Each student and/or faculty member is responsible for reporting in writing any suspected Honor Code violation to the Honor Advisor within 7 business days of the date on which he or she has knowledge of the violation, unless there are unusual circumstances. Those reporting must submit a signed, written, factual account, along with any supporting documents, about the suspected honor violation and submit it to the Honor Advisor within this time frame.
- B. **Self-Report.** A student who violates the Honor Code may self-report and must do so within seven (7) business days of occurrence of the violation(s). An initial admission may be given verbally, but a written report signed by the student must be submitted to the Honor Advisor no later than one (1) business day after making the verbal admission. Self-reported cases will be handled by the Honor Council Chair (or designee), the Honor Sponsor and the VP/Provost.

VI. Retaliation

- A. BSMCON has zero tolerance for retaliation against any individual who reports a suspected honor code violation in good faith.
- B. Incidents of retaliation violate the student conduct policy (ADM 3.21) and will be subject to disciplinary action under that policy.

VII. Investigation

The Honor Advisor and Honor Sponsor may choose to meet as soon as practicable thereafter with the individual(s) who reported the violation to obtain any required clarification. Upon receipt of the allegation, the Honor Advisor and the Honor Sponsor are permitted up to ten (10) business days to complete the investigation of the allegation. If it is determined that there is sufficient evidence of possible violation(s) of the Honor Code, the accused student will be notified in writing of the accusation(s) and the information will be provided to the VP/Provost to begin an Honor Review.

VIII. Honor Review

When sufficient evidence of a possible violation exists, the process will be handled administratively through a case review by the Honor Council Chair (or designee), the Honor Sponsor and the VP/Provost. If it is determined that the accused student has not violated the Honor Code during the investigation, the matter will be dismissed.

VIII. Corrective Measures

- A. The Vice President/Provost will review all materials presented in an Honor case and will consult with the Honor Sponsor and an Honor Council Chair (or designee) to make the final determination regarding corrective action.
- B. Any student found culpable of an Honor Code violation may be subject to one or more of the following corrective measures:
 - 1. Loss of credit for course work or the course;
 - 2. Honor Probation- a written warning that indicates that a subsequent determination of an Honor Code violation may result in a sanction of dismissal and/or expulsion;

3. Restitution to pay for the repair or replacement of material items;
 4. Volunteer or community service for a specified number of hours;
 5. Suspension for one or more semesters (including the current semester);
 6. Expulsion or permanent dismissal, in which case the student is not eligible to return to the College;
 7. Other corrective measures as deemed appropriate by the Honor Sponsor and VP/Provost.
- C. Corrective measures will be determined by the VP/Provost. The Vice President/Provost will render a final decision in writing, provided to the accused student no later than 5 business days from review of the case information. The corrective measure(s) imposed is entered into the student's official record.

IX. Appeal Procedures: Please reference policy ADM 1.06.

References

Langone, M. (2007) Educational innovation: Promoting integrity among nursing students. *Journal of Nursing Education*, 46 (1), 45-47.

Tippitt, M., Ard, N., Kline, J., Tilghman, J., Chamberlain, B., Meagher, P. (2009). Creating environments that foster academic integrity. *Nursing Education Perspectives*, 30 (4), 239

BON SECOURS MEMORIAL COLLEGE OF NURSING

THE HONOR PLEDGE

In accepting admission to Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing:

I, _____, a member of the student body of the Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing, hereby pledge upon my honor to abide by all of the regulations governing the College. I will conduct my personal life with integrity, refraining from any action, which would discredit myself, the members of the student body of the College of Nursing, or the nursing profession.

I hereby pledge that I understand and will uphold the Honor System. I am aware that a breach of the Honor System will result in an administrative review process as defined in the Honor Code System Policy.. I understand completely that, if found culpable of lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism and/or failure to report, I may be dismissed from the College.

In addition, the following short Honor Pledge statement, **"On my honor, I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment or test, and I pledge that I am in compliance with the BSMCON Honor System."** or the abbreviated statement of, **"I pledge,"** will be written on all graded work and signed by the student.