PENALTIES

When a student confesses or is found to have committed an Honor System violation, the Honor Board is responsible for imposing a penalty. A penalty matrix has been established to help determine the appropriate penalty for a specific Honor System violation. Penalties consist of grade changes, transcript marks, suspension, and expulsion. Often times, penalties assigned will include two components, a grade change and a removable/permanent academic sanction.

An Academic Sanction is a statement on the student's academic transcript indicating that the student had violated the Stevens Honor System. An academic sanction may be removable or permanent.

APPEALS

Students can appeal a penalty rendered by submitting a letter to the designated Dean in the Office of Undergraduate Academics with the reasons for the appeal within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the penalty. Appeals are reviewed by the Academic Appeals committee. The grounds for an appeal are:

- Penalty: The Honor board levied too harsh a penalty.
- Investigation: The procedures for the Honor Board Investigation were not properly followed and/or the rights of the accused student were not protected.
- Hearing: The procedures for the Honor Board hearing were not properly followed and/or the rights of the accused student were not protected.
- Other appeals may be heard if, in the opinion of the Dean in the Office of Undergraduate Academics, an accused student’s rights were mishandled and/or the procedures followed by the Honor Board are deemed unfair to the students involved.
The Stevens Honor System

The Stevens Honor System, established in 1908, upholds the academic integrity of the University, and fosters an atmosphere of trust and honor among Stevens undergraduates.

The Honor System is led by a peer elected student organization, the Honor Board, which is entrusted with investigating all reports of suspected violations and imposing appropriate penalties when necessary.

The Pledge
The Stevens Honor System requires the pledge to be written and signed on all undergraduate work submitted to be graded. If a student refuses to sign the pledge, it is treated as an automatic confession to an Honor System violation.

“I pledge my honor that I have abided by the Stevens Honor System”


Protecting the Tradition
The Stevens community protects the long standing tradition of the Honor System in order to protect the community of trust and honor at Stevens. The Honor System, founded in 1908, encourages professors to trust their students. All members of the Stevens community are charged with the responsibility of preserving the integrity of the Honor System.

Reporting an Honor System Violation
Every member of the Stevens community is expected to report suspected violations of the Honor System electronically via the Honor Board’s website, www.stevens.edu/honor.

Common violations include
• Giving or Receiving unauthorized aid
• Plagiarism
• Falsifying Attendance
• Perjury

*A more exhaustive definition and examples of violations may be found at www.stevens.edu/honor.

Faculty Adjudications
All suspected violations of the Honor System are required to be reported to and investigated by the Honor Board. However, faculty members may adjudicate suspected violations that are worth less than 13% of the final course grade by offering the student the opportunity to confess to the violation and agree to the penalty. Students may refuse a faculty adjudication and instead opt for an investigation by the Honor Board.

The Honor Board’s Roles
Instigative Committee: An Investigative Committee of two Honor Board members investigates suspected violations of the Honor System. The committee meets with the accuser, accused, faculty and potential witnesses to gather any information related to the case.

Procedural Advisor: Any student being investigated for an Honor System violation is provided with a procedural advisor (PA) who is a member of the Honor Board. The PA is responsible for answering any procedural questions the student may have about the investigation and the Honor System.