Proposal for the Creation and Adoption of a Student Honor Code at Collin College
Presented to: Student Government Association (SGA)
Submitted by: Dean of Students Office
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Revised by the Academic Freedom Committee and Submitted to Faculty Council on October 16, 2025.
Approved by Faculty Council as recommendation to Leadership on October 16, 2025.

Rationale and Purpose

Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, cheating, and collusion, undermines the integrity of academic institutions. Academic dishonesty compromises the value of a Collin College education and erodes the culture of trust necessary for a thriving academic community. In response, Collin College's Faculty Council proposes the creation of a formal Honor Code that will articulate the ethical standards expected of all students. This Honor Code will foster a shared sense of responsibility for maintaining academic integrity and serve as a foundation for promoting honesty, accountability, and mutual respect across the college.

The Student Government Association's collaboration and input are essential to ensure the Honor Code reflects student values and is embraced as a student-led initiative.

Mission and Goals of the Honor Code

The mission of the Honor Code is to cultivate a culture of academic integrity and personal accountability among all students at Collin College by establishing clear expectations for ethical behavior in all academic endeavors.

Goals:
1. To promote honesty, trust, and fairness in all academic work.
2. To educate students on the definitions and consequences of scholastic dishonesty.
3. To empower students to take ownership of their learning and ethical responsibilities.
4. To support faculty in upholding standards of academic excellence.
5. To create a community-wide commitment to integrity and mutual respect.

Honor Code Statement Draft

Collin College Student Honor Code

"I pledge to uphold honesty, integrity, and responsibility in all my academic work at Collin College. I will not engage in any form of academic dishonesty, and I will support a community built on trust and respect."

Students' Commitment and Expectations to the Honor Code

- Commit to the Honor Code – Read, understand, and uphold the Collin College Honor Code in all academic and extracurricular work.

- Complete Academic Work Honestly – Submit only your own original work, and avoid cheating, plagiarism, or unauthorized collaboration.

- Seek Help When Needed – Ask your Collin College professor, an Anthony Peterson Center for Academic Assistance (APCAA) tutor, or other Collin College resources for guidance when struggling with assignments instead of turning to dishonest methods.

- Understand What Constitutes Academic Dishonesty – Learn the definitions and consequences of cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and facilitating academic misconduct.

- Manage Time Effectively – Plan ahead and avoid last-minute work that may lead to poor decisions or scholastic dishonesty under pressure.

- Use Resources Responsibly – Use citation tools, tutoring services, and academic technologies ethically and within stated course and professor guidelines.

- Support a Culture of Integrity – Encourage peers to value honest work and contribute to a respectful academic community through example and conversation.

- Report Academic Misconduct – Report to the appropriate faculty member or the Dean of Students Office any instance of academic misconduct or dishonest behavior you become aware of or witness.

Faculty's and Staff's Commitment and Expectations to Upholding the Honor Code

- Clearly Communicate Academic Integrity Policies – Include the Honor Code and academic integrity expectations in all course syllabi and review them with students at the beginning of each term.

- Educate Students on Scholastic Dishonesty – Discuss what constitutes plagiarism, cheating, and unauthorized collaboration, and provide examples to promote understanding.

- Utilize Tools and Technologies Responsibly – Use plagiarism and cheating detection tools and proctoring software thoughtfully to identify and address misconduct while fostering student trust and transparency.

- Foster an Environment of Trust and Respect – Build relationships with students that encourage open communication and emphasize the value of honest academic work.

- Address Violations Promptly and Fairly – Follow College procedures for reporting and documenting suspected dishonesty, ensuring consistency and due process for all students.

- Model Ethical Behavior – Demonstrate integrity in teaching practices, grading, communication, and collaboration with colleagues and students.

- Collaborate with Colleagues on Best Practices – Engage in department or college-wide conversations to share strategies for promoting academic integrity and addressing concerns.