December 2007 • Academic Integrity  The University of South Carolina is committed to fostering an environment that upholds the highest standards of integrity in study, research, instruction and evaluation. This month we look at the values and ethical behaviors of South Carolina students, as well as offer you information to share with your students on a pair of initiatives from Student Affairs and Academic Support.

More students are familiar with the Carolinian Creed

Over the past 10 years, student awareness and observance of the Carolinian Creed has continued to strengthen. In 2004, 87.2 percent of students reported knowledge of the creed and its ideals, increasing to 88.1 percent in 2005. Last year, 90.2 percent of students said they knew of the Carolinian Creed and the ideals it describes.

Source: 2006 Perception Study, University Housing

Students say South Carolina experience has helped them develop a personal code of ethics

Students surveyed said that knowledge, skills and personal development in forming values are advantages of their University experiences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very little</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quite a bit</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very much</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NSSE 2007

Students choose not to report cheating for various reasons

Though almost 51 percent of students are aware of cheating, they don’t report it. Their reasons for not reporting cheating reflect their differing views on responsibility for monitoring this behavior.

I didn't want to be labeled a snitch 9.71%
It's the professor's responsibility 14.86%
It was none of my business 30.86%
Cheating doesn't hurt anyone 4%
I didn't want to make an enemy 8.57%
I didn't want to lose a friend 5.14%
I thought my professor needed to know 28.57%
I didn't want a student gaining an unfair advantage 14.29%
I abided by my college's honor code 14.29%
I didn't want to be responsible for the student's punishment 18.86%
I didn't want to report it because I didn't want a student gaining an unfair advantage 14.29%

Source: PACS 2007

Many students say ethics guide them when deciding to report cheating

Less than two percent of students surveyed said they had reported cheating. Many of those who did said they felt it was the right thing to do.

I thought my professor needed to know 28.57%
I didn't want a student gaining an unfair advantage 14.29%
I abided by my college's honor code 14.29%
It was the right/honest/ethical thing to do 42.86%

Source: PACS 2007

About 48 percent of students say they don’t report cheating because they are unaware of it.
Resources to help make our students better students

**University Honor Code**
www.sc.edu/academicintegrity/honorcode.html

The recently adopted Honor Code is the University’s policy regarding incidents involving academic dishonesty. It serves two purposes: to educate the South Carolina community about academic integrity and its importance in our scholarship; and to hold students accountable in a consistent and fair manner when they violate the Honor Code.

The following examples illustrate conduct that violates the Honor Code:

- giving or receiving unauthorized assistance in academic work
- unauthorized use of materials in completing academic work
- unauthorized access to any test or exam before its administration
- use of another person’s work or ideas
- conduct that interferes with an instructor’s ability to accurately evaluate a student’s academic performance

The code applies to all students and codifies the values espoused in the tenets of the Carolinian Creed. The Honor Code Web site features resources to help students improve their academic skills.

In a recent survey, almost 72 percent of students said they had never cheated on an exam, paper or other assignment.

*Source: PACS 2007*

**Carolinian Creed**
www.sa.sc.edu/creed/

The Carolinian Creed, officially adopted in 1990, is a complement to the University’s conduct code. It forms the basis for and serves as a summary of what’s expected by the University. The creed outlines five tenets by which students are obligated to abide by.

The community of scholars at the University of South Carolina is dedicated to personal and academic excellence. Choosing to join the community obligates each member to a code of civilized behavior.

As a Carolinian...

- I will practice personal and academic integrity;
- I will respect the dignity of all persons;
- I will respect the rights and property of others;
- I will discourage bigotry, while striving to learn from differences in people, ideas and opinions;
- I will demonstrate concern for others, their feelings, and their need for conditions which support their work and development.

Allegiance to these ideals requires each Carolinian to refrain from and discourage behaviors that threaten the freedom and respect every individual deserves.