

## Honor Code for IIT Kanpur – a draft

{The following text has been prepared as a follow up to the discussions held in one of the Deans' group meetings in October 2009. It is purely a draft does not have the approval of the competent authority. Consequently, it does not represent the Institute position on the subject. }

Best academic institutions across the globe have always maintained an honor code as integral part of their academic policy and value system. Faculty, staff, and students of such institutions adhere to the applicable honor code in *true* spirit, implementing it effectively and efficiently. Sample honor codes from Universities around the world are provided in the next page.

### Proposal for an honor code

The following code is proposed:

**We undertake to conduct all activities - academic, research, and extracurricular in a manner that will only enhance the prestige of the Institute.**

Along the lines of the plagiarism policy of this Institute, an honor code is needed to create an environment of discipline and integrity that produces engineers with high ethical values. The honor code of the Institute is an epilogue to the plagiarism policy of the Institute. Failure to adhere to this honor code will result in appropriate repercussions.

Faculty, staff, and students of IIT Kanpur who are important stakeholders of this Institute are expected to adhere to our honor code thus setting an excellent example.

## Honor Code

An **honor code** or an **honor system** is a set of rules or principles governing a community based on a set of rules or ideals that define what constitutes honorable behavior. The use of an honor code depends on the idea that people (at least within the group) can be trusted to act honorably. Those who are in violation of the honor code can be subject to various sanctions, including the extreme step of expulsion from the Institution.

### *Examples of Honor Code prevailing at different academic Institutions*

- "No member of the Caltech community shall take unfair advantage of any other member of the Caltech community." California Institute of Technology
- "I pledge to uphold the principles of honesty and responsibility at our University." Texas State University
- "On my honor as a student, I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment/exam." University of Virginia
- "Pledge: No Aid; No Violations." Wesleyan University
- "A cadet will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do." United States Military Academy
- "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does." United States Air Force Academy and Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps
- "Aggies do not lie, cheat, or steal, nor do they tolerate those who do." Texas A&M University
- "On my honor I have neither given nor received any unauthorized aid on this (exam, test, paper)." Rice University
- "Under code of honor, I certify when completing this work I did not give nor receive any type of help, outside the specified by the professor." Tecnológico de Monterrey
- "I pledge my honor that I have not violated the honor code during this examination." Princeton University [1]
- "On my honor as a University of Colorado student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance." University of Colorado
- "I Pledge that I have neither received nor given unauthorized assistance during the completion of this work." University of Richmond
- "The Hampden-Sydney student will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor tolerate those who do." Hampden-Sydney College
- "I attest this is my own work and accept the consequences if it is not." Alexander W. Dreyfoos School of the Arts
- "I affirm that I will uphold the highest principles of honesty and integrity in all my endeavors at Gettysburg College and foster an atmosphere of mutual respect within and beyond the classroom." Gettysburg College

- "On all my work, my name affirms my Honor." Harvard-Westlake School
- "On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work." Kansas State University
- "We have but one rule here, and it is that every student must be a gentleman."-  
Washington and Lee University
- "I pledge on my honor that during this examination I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance, nor have I seen any violations of the Exam Code of Conduct."  
Ashesi University (Ghana)
- "The members of the METU community are reliable, responsible and honorable people who embrace only the success and recognition they deserve, and act with integrity in their use, evaluation and presentation of facts, data and documents." Middle East Technical University
- "I have neither given nor received aid in this examination nor have I concealed any violation of the University Honor Code." Middle East Technical University
- "At the core of the Cambridge Honor Code is the belief that every student has the right to pursue an education free from the ills caused by any form of intellectual dishonesty."  
Cambridge University, UK.
- The University of Texas School of Law sets its Honor Code as a first step in the obligation of its students to the legal profession: "All law students are harmed by unethical behavior by any student. A student who deals dishonestly with fellow law students may be dishonest in the future and harm both future clients and the legal profession." In keeping with this approach to the honor code in the grand scheme of the legal profession, honor code violations are reported to the State Bar of Texas and the violator's home state bar, thus creating an impediment to licensure. UT Law School is unique in that regard.