



## INTRODUCTION

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***F**ounded in 1876, Johns Hopkins was the first research university in the United States. Its mission was to advance human knowledge through discovery and scholarship, and to pass that knowledge on to its students. The university's emphasis on both research and learning—and on how each area complements the other—revolutionized American higher education.*

*This fusion of research and learning has become a hallmark of study at Johns Hopkins. As a result, the Hopkins community has a reputation for academic excellence, new discovery, and independent thought. The strength of this community lies fundamentally in the distinguished academic integrity of the university. A commitment to the principles of truth and honesty is essential to the goals of the university. Only through truth and honesty can the authorship, freedom, and collaboration that characterize and strengthen the university continue to thrive.*

*It is the personal responsibility of all members on the Homewood campus—students, faculty, and staff—to uphold the ethical standards of the institution.*

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Students come to Johns Hopkins not only to improve their minds and to gain knowledge and skills, but also to build character and independence. The goal of Hopkins is to teach you to be both innovative and truthful, both insightful and respectful. To be a part of the community, you must be honest with others in every aspect of your lives.

Without honesty and ethics—which are central to a culture of trust—collaboration cannot exist and is replaced with unfair, suspicious competition. We all can celebrate the rigor of a Hopkins education, but that rigor loses its meaning if students cheat. This is why the university will not tolerate cheating.

Just as cheating hurts our community, it will hurt you. The university will punish violators with transcript notations, failure in a course, suspension and/or expulsion. The Pre-Professional Office will report a student's ethical violations, no matter how minor, to medical, law, and other professional schools. Federal government agencies will not give security clearance to anyone with ethics violations. And just as important, cheaters will suffer from the guilt and low self-esteem of earning a degree they do not deserve.

Undergraduates are expected to understand the ethical standards of the university, holding the highest standard of integrity for their own work and avoiding academic dishonesty in all forms. Ignorance of ethical rules is no excuse for cheating.

It is the further responsibility of every student to report to professors or deans any suspected violations of academic ethics by their peers. Enforcement of our code of ethics is a shared responsibility and should not depend on the university alone.

## NOTE TO FACULTY

For the benefit of academic integrity at Hopkins, faculty must treat ethics as a serious matter. You should stress the importance of honesty and trust on the first day of your classes, as well as in your syllabi. Be certain your TAs understand that they must be as fair, consistent, and vigilant as you are.

Faculty members are responsible for clearly specifying the basic rules and procedures for all course work, examinations, or other academic exercises. Failure to do so creates confusion and unnecessary temptation among students.

In the “Resources” section of this guide, you will find a syllabus insert that reaffirms the university's stance on academic ethics and gives space for you to include unique information for your particular courses. For example, you can explain your policy regarding collaboration on assignments.

Faculty and teaching assistants must enforce violations of academic ethics equally and consistently. You should report all pending or resolved violations, no matter how minor, to the associate dean of student affairs (410-516-8208). Such enforcement

contributes to the seriousness of ethics at Hopkins, and it allows the fairest environment for all students.

You are responsible for exercising a reasonable degree of caution while writing, transporting, and administering examinations and other graded work.

An instructor should not tempt students to cheat by reusing exams or assignments unless these materials are accessible to all students. **You should submit all exams to the MSE Library to be placed on reserve.** See your department administrator for details.

Students should sign an ethics pledge attached to every exam. That pledge should read: *I have read and understood the guidebook, Academic Ethics for Undergraduates. I agree to complete this exam without unauthorized assistance from any person, materials, or device. [Signed and dated]* Until this pledge is printed on blue books, we ask that instructors write this text on a board or test sheet to be copied onto the written exam.

Your system for accepting and returning assignments outside of class must be secure (e.g., requires a sign-in sheet with times and signatures and prevents students' assignments from being removed).

### NOTE TO PARENTS

A college education at Johns Hopkins is a wonderful privilege. Your son or daughter is grateful to

you for your support. You should be very proud of them.

At the same time, it is important to remember that the education they are receiving is rigorous. Your son or daughter may be facing academic demands, challenges, and competition that exceed their experiences. For the first time, he or she may not be at the top of the class.

We ask that you, as parents, support and encourage your son or daughter to succeed without placing excessive pressure upon them. The primary reason for cheating at Hopkins is panic and irrational thought when facing potential failure. This panic frequently stems from fear of not meeting parental expectation.

It is essential that you remind your son or daughter always to try their best and to be happy with this effort, regardless of the outcome. It may be necessary for them to seek extra help or tutoring, but you need to reassure them that they should not feel ashamed for doing so.

It is difficult for people outside the Hopkins community to understand how challenging the school can be. We encourage you to be a part of the community and to support your son or daughter in positive ways during their college years.

A Hopkins education will be a source of pride and satisfaction forever. Help your son or daughter experience this by encouraging them to act with integrity and honesty.