The Honor Code and U

Orientation 2015
History Of Union’s Honor Code

Written for the students, by the students

In 2006, students requested the reintroduction of an Honor Code to address concerns about academic misconduct. In 2012, the Honor Code was reinstated.

The Honor Council is made up of students and faculty who represent a wide range of disciplines. Students chair and act as a voting majority in any proceeding or hearing.
What the Class of 2019 Says

• 68.2% had an Honor Code in their high school
• 70.8% knew Union had an Honor Code
  • 10.1% were influenced by this fact in choosing to attend Union
• What does the Honor Code mean to you?
What does the Honor Code mean?

Professionalism  Integrity  Validity
Accountability  Character
Trust  Culture
Authenticity  Pride
Respect  Community
Mark consulted Sparknotes in order to better understand a reading assignment. There were similarities in the themes, order of ideas, and word choice between his paper and Sparknotes. Mark did not directly quote or cite Sparknotes as a source.

Is this a violation of the Honor Code?

A. Yes
B. No

✓ A. Yes
Yes, A. Failure to properly cite borrowed ideas and themes and improper paraphrasing is considered plagiarism.

Mark should have cited Sparknotes in the works cited/bibliography and within the text.
Ruth completed a paper for a previous class that is closely related to an assignment for a current course. She used some elements of the old paper for the new assignment.

Is this a violation of the Honor Code?

A. Yes
B. No
Yes, A. Ruth submitted work completed for a previous class as though it were new. This is self plagiarism.

In order to submit previous work for a new course, Ruth must seek the instructor’s approval and properly cite herself.
Steve is having trouble completing the discussion section of his lab report and asks Wendy to send her old report for ideas. Wendy sends her lab report, which she completed for the same course in a previous term. Steve uses some of the ideas, but his wording is original.

**Is this a violation of the Honor Code and if so, who violated it?**

A. Yes, Steve  
B. Yes, Wendy  
C. Yes, both Steve and Wendy  
D. No, neither Steve nor Wendy

Correct answer: C. Yes, both Steve and Wendy
Yes, C. Both students violated the Honor Code. Steve used ideas from another student and presented them as his own - this is plagiarism. Though the wording was original, the interpretation of the results was not. Wendy sent the report knowing that Steve wanted discussion ideas, thereby helping another student commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Steve should have completed the discussion section without assistance from another student; Wendy should not have sent her old lab report.
Kate is enrolled in a class that her friend Tom took last term. Tom gives Kate his lecture notes to help her learn the material better.

Is this a violation of the Honor Code and if so, who violated it?

A. Yes, Tom
B. Yes, Kate
C. Yes, both Tom and Kate
D. No neither Tom nor Kate

Correct answer: D. No neither Tom nor Kate
No, D. Neither student is in violation. Academic misconduct generally has to do with failing to complete an assignment in the way an instructor expected. Sharing lecture notes does not generally prevent a student from completing assignments on their own.

However, copying another student’s notes and then using that information in a paper without proper citation would be considered plagiarism. Sharing notes in itself is not a violation of the Honor Code and can foster intellectual curiosity.
Maggie was not feeling well and knew she would not attend class. She texted her friend Robert to sign her name on the attendance sheet and he complied.

Is this a violation of the Honor Code, and if so, who violated it?

A. Yes, Maggie
B. Yes, Robert
C. Yes, both Maggie and Robert
D. No, neither Maggie nor Robert.

Correct answer: C. Yes, both Maggie and Robert.
Yes, C. Both students violated the honor code! Robert committed **forgery**, by signing in Maggie for a class in which she did not participate. Maggie **helped another student commit an act of academic dishonesty (forgery)**, by requesting Robert to sign her in.

Signing in a student for a class (check mark, signature, initials) where they are not present is always a violation.
Conclusion

It’s your responsibility to learn and follow the Honor Code and to complete your own academic work beyond this presentation.

Resources
- Nexus - The Academic Honor Code
  - Honor Code Tutorial, HC Essentials, Case Summaries
- union.edu/honorcode
- Statement on Plagiarism
- The Honor Council
- The Writing Center

Questions?
- Ask Honor Council Members or email honorcode@union.edu
- Look for emails about opportunities to become an Honor Council Member during spring term!