Honor Code Report
SGA Student Life Survey 2017

Q40 - Do you support the continued existence of the Middlebury Honor Code?

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<th>#</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Yes, I support it in its current form</td>
<td>74.08%</td>
<td>686</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Yes, I support it in principle, but there needs to be changes</td>
<td>19.01%</td>
<td>176</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>No, I think it is unnecessary and/or ineffective</td>
<td>5.51%</td>
<td>51</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>No, please specify</td>
<td>1.40%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>926</td>
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No, please specify

I think it enables and empowers unethical behavior.

I don't think it is worth having if students aren't willing to do what is required of them when signing the honor cord. I also don't think it is possible to value the honor code in its academic settings and not in life in general, and I don't
really believe people on this campus at large are interested in acting with integrity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I don't really keep up with it</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unsure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not Certain what the question means</td>
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<tr>
<td>I support the existence, but I think there are problems enforcing it</td>
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<td>I simply don't care</td>
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<td>So much cheating happens</td>
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<td>I think that the honor code has good intentions, but it is too extreme and goes too far such that it is pretty ridiculous at this point. Of course I should be allowed to study with my friends and have them peer review my papers before turning them in, etc.</td>
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<td>People abuse it all the time, and those who don't weren't going to cheat anyway. It's fine, but what are the actual impacts. If there was no honor code would people not get in trouble in the same way? I don't care whether or not my professor is there when I take an exam. It's about personal integrity, and signing a code isn't going to change that.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don't care</td>
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Q41 - Optional: Do you have any suggestions for what changes could be made to the Honor Code?

Optional: Do you have any suggestions for what changes could be made to the...

Rigorously proctor all exams.

More respect from students

Students who see cheating or witness something should not be held accountable to the same level as the student that actually cheats. The idea is to self-proctor, not to be forced into be a snitch.

Get rid of it. Proctor exams.

None

Proctoring of exams needs to be implemented throughout all departments or taken away. There can't be a staggering of when to apply the honor code and when to not apply it.

I'm familiar with the honor code in other universities like haverford and I know the code extends to social life in terms of drinking. By abiding to the honor code students promise to drink responsibly and I belive instilling this trust in the student body would be a step towards a healthier drinking/social life.

None. I think our habits from high school follow us to college. The honor code does little/nothing to change these ingrained behaviors.

Shouldn't be scripted. Should be revisited more often. Community standards shouldn't be incorporated, would prefer it to be purely academic.

I think it is great and everyone in my classes respects it

I just think it's silly. The prof should be able to be in the room during an exam, and if a professor wants to give a take-home exam, he/she can.

It needs to be more physical, it tends to just be a thought/idea.

It needs to be clear and its importance emphasized. I feel like it's lost its power and students no longer know how privileged they are to have the honor code.

Perhaps consider the ethics of people turning each other in. I think it can get very tricky when you're forced to choose between friendships/not wanting to become involved in a situation and strictly following the Honor Code. If I hear someone talking about how someone else cheated what is my obligation? I think this type of situation should be grappled with more in a discussion.

It seems like it's fallen somewhat by the wayside, and should be more strictly enforced/repeated for effect.

We should actually enforce it.

End her!!

The honor code has been a significant source of stress for me and my friends over our time at Middlebury so far. I think in principle and spirit it is a great thing, but often times inhibits learning because we feel like we can't discuss class topics with our peers without breaking the honor code. All professors should be very clear on all assignments about what is and what isn't breaking the honor code.

What is the wording behind the honor code? Is it the "I have not given nor received" bit that we write on exams? I never knew what I was signing.

None!
Do not proctor exams in any department.

LEAVE IT BE! The Honor Code is perfect as it is.

I think students should be able to help each other study and edit each others' papers.

Can't lose points for forgetting to write it.

I don't think the Honor Code actually impacts students' academic habits. I am more concerned with how students relate to one another, as the marginalization of students can have a severely detrimental impact on those students' academic performance. We need to instill a sense of honor towards all people on campus into the fabric of social and academic life on campus.

Actually punish people who commit sexual assault on our campus, provide equitable resources for underrepresented/'underprepared" students who have to go through the hearing process and may not have the support they need (and also, closely examining hearings for miscitations because many "underprepared" students may not know how to cite correctly/international students may be used to different citation formats than what professors on campus use).

I don't think it's fair that some departments proctor exams and others don't. It should be a school wide decision.

Call on members of the community to publicly call out or shame people for cheating if it happens. They need to grow the fuck up, and humiliation is a great way to achieve that... Or idk, hold professors to certain standards too, in how much work they assign. Is that a thing we can do? Should everyone here not have some sort of "honor code"?

I think that First Year Advisors need to do a better job at explaining the value of the honor code and how it works. I had multiple friends their sophomore year who had to report before the Academic Integrity board because they had unknowingly committed plagiarism (having not been taught proper citation methods/walked through the details of the Honor code).

Honor code is useful so that teachers trust students are actually sick or unable to attend class when they communicate this status. However, I don't understand why teachers can't be present in the room during exams or why we are allowed to have take home exams. I think this enables cheating. Additionally it causes unnecessary anxiety for students who don't cheat because they know they might do worse relative to other students who do cheat.

Take home language tests, mor than other tests, are very tempting to cheat on. Its extremely easy to look up spelling and grammar and its easy to tell yourself that you alread know the answer and are just checking. I think the departments should be aware of this and remove the temptation.

If professors truly accepted it, all final exams could be self-scheduled, which would help reduce stress and make it easier for students to get home.

It doesn't make sense that it only applies to certain academic departments and not others, i.e. Economics

If there is going to be such strictness when it comes to citations in a paper, etc., there should be more of an education about how to cite, etc. Also, take home tests are great, but I think sometimes there is too much trust with the students.

I don't think students take it seriously. Especially when it comes to reporting others. Sure that's a dick move, but that's what we signed ourselves to.

Honestly this is such a tough question good luck.

Greater enforcement

I really don't know anything about the Honor Code and its existence or need for change has never impacted my time at Middlebury, though my whole time here it has been a topic of discussion.

It needs to be applied to all departments.

middlebury should decide if it actually trusts its students to follow the honor code. if not, then get rid of it.
We shouldn't be relying completely on the honor code. Like proctoring some the exams in the core courses in the Economics department is in my opinion a good thing.

I believe that the teacher should stay in the room during exams. While I understand that some students feel like they are not trusted when in proctored exams, I believe that this serves to make asking questions to professors harder and only covers up the issues with teacher-student trust rather than addressing the problem directly.

I think it should be expanded to conduct beyond the classroom. I think there should be writing about how we respect each other. I think occasions of assault should be grounds for getting expelled/suspended for a term and required to seek consoling (for the perpetrator).

Maybe look at how other institutions have handled similar codes of conduct? E.g. Haverford

I think people should have to sign it again every year to remind themselves. I also think that students should be more aware of its content (outside of orientation)

I think that we as a campus community need to revitalize it, and make it more of a part of our daily lives.

There is a lack of accountability among students who don't care and get away with cheating anyways, and a lack of consistency across disciplines.

Something about cheating -- the whole "on your honor" thing is a little goofy. I know people who have cheated, but I haven't reported them. Yet I also get pissed off about the Econ dept.'s reputation for letting shithead jocks slide through classes by taking them with their friends. I don't know, sure, keep the Honor Code. Someone will always cheat, but maybe they'll feel guilty about it?

If we sign the honor code upon entering the school, then why are we supposed to include it on all the assignments as well? Clearly the college doesn't really trust us...

I just want a culture where people don't cheat, and if someone does cheat they receive a fair trial process and if found guilty there should be harsh penalties.

Get rid of the part where basically "you have to be a snitch if you see someone cheating or you're equally at fault." That's some BS

Have proctored exams

I do not understand the need for professors to leave the room while students take a test. It's not that hard to work on a test without cheating and with someone potentially staring at you. People are going to stare at us for the rest of our lives, might as well get over it.

Not sure what changes should be made - but it is somewhat ineffective in that I think people still cheat all the time. However, I think they cheat less than places where there is no Honor Code implemented (can compare to previous school since I transferred). And I think the lack of proctored exams and other flexibilities allowed by the Honor Code are really helpful in reducing stress, so there are parts of the Honor Code that I do value. Don't know if it is truly ever possible to prevent large scale cheating (without some larger cultural/societal changes on importance of grades/competitiveness).

Make it easier to report transgressions. I currently don't feel comfortable. There is no platform.

Make it clear what can and cannot be discussed between students regarding homework, papers, and exams. I want to know if I can work with a partner on these math problem sets and I want to know if a peer and I can edit each other's papers for simple errors. These things should be outlined by professors very clearly and this has not been done and left me wondering if me helping my friend with an integral or something is in violation of the honor code.

Expand beyond academics

All final exams, since we are under the honor code should be self scheduled.

Specify that students shouldn't be sending their essays home to their parents for edits or "quick read throughs".
I do NOT think community standards should be added.

No but please be mindful that changes to the honor code impact students with learning differences -- so adding in proctoring of exams for example puts an additional strain on students who need extra time in that they need to seek out a professor to watch them while taking an exam

Wildly unfeasible, but it may do to think about having it be a living document and have mandatory all-college meetings once a month (with no papers scheduled the day after - they had this at Midd in the 1970s and 1980s), and at those meetings we think through honor code.

Please do not remove or weaken the Honor Code.

I really dislike that some departments have decided that they will disregard the honor code and proctor exams anyway. I think this should be disallowed. I also think the concept of having to write the honor code on papers and tests is unnecessary because all students agreed to the principle at the beginning of their time at Middlebury and writing it down doesn't really mean anything. Also, although I always remember to follow the Honor Code when writing a paper, I sometimes forget to actually write it on the paper when I am done, and I think it is unfair that some teachers punish students for that or refuse to grade their papers.

No changes in wording will help the honor code. Exams need to be proctored

Mandatory reporting of violations by professors is highly problematic and harms the student/instructor relationship. I would love to see this aspect of the Code removed or modified as I believe it limits the opportunity for student and instructor growth.

If we have an honor code why can't all exams (when possible) be self-scheduled?

The honor code should be rid of entirely. Although it exemplifies values that are withheld in the Middlebury community, it is virtually worthless when it comes to monitoring students and may actually cause harm.

I think that judicial reviews of students should be made in an open forum if the student implicated requests it. This way other students can benefit from learning from it as well as being observers of the process.

I don't agree that students cant read over each others work

flexible scheduling for the economics department.

Especially for languages, the prohibition of using translator resources and talking to native speakers for help seems unrealistic. Students should be able to embrace interdependence to learn the most and create the best possible work. The only reason I can see for this policy is concerns about equity or people getting better grades who see out help, but that's an issue with having competition for grades not an issue with whether it's helpful for actual learning to use additional resources. I'm also disappointed that some departments have reverted to proctoring exams if we want to say we actually have a functional honor code.

If we are going to have an honor code, it should be the same for every department/group of students.

I don't really know. But in my experience, it's pretty ineffective. It certainly doesn't stop individuals from cheating. Mostly it's just an inconvenience - for example, I've had uptight professors penalize me for forgetting to write the honor code on assignments. You can't change douchey professors, but you can change administrative regulations.

I think the clause about it being someone's duty to rat someone out for violating the honor code is a bit much because it pits the values of trusting in that person's integrity versus doing what arbitrarily is right. We don't know what kind of pressure people are under when they cheat and this institution puts A LOT OF FUCKING (for lack of a better word) of stress and pressure on its students! Professors have even admitted that they collectively give more homework than they expect students to actually complete, therefore setting up students to think that they are perpetual failures when they first come here because they can't complete or stay on top of every little assignment which is completely ludacris! We should treat cheating as a cry for help because everyone always says how people normally cheat when they feel the circumstances have left them with no choice. Maybe they should think about reforming the extensions/Dean's excuse policy to be less strict and more accommodating for students because some professors don't even give extensions which is also a very stressful thing for some students.
It's sad people don't follow it but that happens. We can't be perfect.
- more clear standards across all professors/departments about what constitutes "breaking the honor code"

The Honor Code is pointless, in my opinion. Anyone who is going to cheat is going to still sign the honor code. Exams that aren't proctored just make tracking your professor down to ask questions more difficult and time-consuming. The honor code discourages collaboration, especially in the language department. I do not think anyone asking friends for help with different languages should be against the honor code because we have so much to learn from our peers.

I think there should be a community standards component added.

I value the Honor Code. I think Professors should be the main enforcers and be clear what they expect of students under the Honor Code throughout their courses (mostly because this is where students will need to respect the terms of the Honor Code regularly). Commons still need to initiate that conversation as they do in orientation. I like that with the Honor Code students knowingly hold each other to higher standards and have the same standards for academic integrity. It allows us to all start on the same page and give us direction and a standard in our academic work.

We need to put more emphasis on it. There seems to be a lack of student support, not because it's not effective, but because it's not discussed enough.

Professors should be allowed to proctor/stay in the room

I worry about the Honor Code quite often. It feels threatening to me, something to be paranoid about. I think that the Honor Code should be something that is helpful to students, something that improves our academic experience. In its current form, it's a source of stress and paranoia for me.

people still cheat. so it is somewhat ineffective. but i do like it

Honor Code is ineffective and I see so many people who don't take it seriously. It pains me because I abide by it, but it hurts when my hard work is clearly not valued by people cheating the system

The Honor Code encompasses our academic work as students, but would have a more profound impact if it extended to the other aspects of our lives in the residential community that is Middlebury College. For example, the relatively small expenses associated with the use of printers and laundry machines at Midd are not included in tuition or room/board fees. Extrapolating from the academic Honor Code, there would be no need to charge for these services because we as students would pledge to hold ourselves and each other accountable for wasteful or irresponsible use. A similar argument stands against curbing students' unlimited access to the dining halls. With the current Honor Code, Midd students promise to make academic honesty and responsibility a priority, but what about when they leave the classroom? Given the tightly knit community in which we live here, we as students might benefit from applying the honor code more thoroughly to residential life at the College.

I just don't think it does anything. If people want to follow it, they do. If they don't, they don't. I don't think there is rampant cheating here, but I have seen it multiple times. I haven't been offended enough by it to report anyone, but it definitely exists.

The question of how to get students to commit to a high community standard is not one I have the answer to. I would say that expecting students to report on one another is naive and ineffective. In some sense this undermines the very trust of one another that the honor code hopes to uphold. I indeed think the honor code in its current form is ineffective and as long as it's ineffective it should not be continued. I hope one day that we as a community can back to a place where an honor code is viable.

I mean...Isn't it obvious enough already? Granted, I didn't think it held any actual role i just thought it was some honorary thing Midd did

It needs to have more beef. People don't follow it enough. It needs to apply to all situations, like the one at Haverford does.

Instead of suspending the student, etc. faculty and staff should try to work through the reasons why someone would break it (either intentionally or unintentionally)

I wish people took it more seriously. Professors and/or first year advisor figures need to address it more directly and
enforce it

People simply don’t follow it. I know I am only one of many who have witnessed people cheating, and the process of coming forward with that knowledge is simply too demanding to the innocent witness who wants to protect the honor code.

Anybody can write the honor code on papers, but people will still break it. Maybe having a workshop on how the honor code came to be and why it’s important would be enlightening.

I think that it should be much more realistic, and put more value on LEARNING and EDUCATION rather than how we compare ourselves to other students at this school (which sets up a very competitive and non-community focused narrative). For example, some of the things that we are not allowed to do are things like peer reading papers before submission, since everyone may not have access to that exact friend that peer edited my paper. Well that’s just ridiculous to be honest. We are all Middlebury students and we all have friends that are Middlebury students, so everyone has an adequate person in their lives to peer edit a paper. And just, a lot of the examples of things that go against the honor code are validated because the wrong act would “aid in this person's learning beyond what they could've done themselves” or something along those lines. But we're in college! That's what we're supposed to be doing. If I only wanted to get as far in life as my own brain could take me, then I wouldn’t have chosen to come to a school like Middlebury where I get to be surrounded by brilliant people. Of course I want to let them help me grow and perform better as a scholar. If I don't, then I’ll graduate here with the same academic abilities as when I entered. I think that the honor code really does mean well, but it's a bit too extreme in my opinion.

People either have personal integrity or they don't. No change in language will have any effect on that.

It's only effective if people do not cheat. If people cheat, anyone who notices is more likely to pretend they did not notice than to contact the professor or whomever.

The program needs to either be entirely student run or entirely administrative. Having students be punished by the administration for rules made by other students doesn't really make sense and I think makes the community not take as much ownership of it.

-I think a lot of students take advantage of the honor code, and do not actually take it seriously even if they publicly say they do. I for instance would never go out of my way to report someone for cheating.

I think writing it on every assignment detracts from its power. Its like I'm guilty until I say i'm innocent. I never cheat, I never write the honor code unless theres a "sign there" type of thing on a test, and my professors almost never don't care.

make it so it governs all student behavior (like the ones at swarthmore and haverford) NOT just academic stuff! otherwise it seems totally arbitrary and meaningless

Having unproctored exams is a silly joke that makes visiting professors and others laugh at us. Let's promote real honesty, not that sort of bullshit. Honor code is important and signing it should hold all to highest standard. Punishment should be severe and enforcement real.

Just make clear rules about if you do this, this will happen to you. Professors should be able to check if their students are teaching, because students don't really care what other students are doing. When other people cheat it makes me mad, but unless it directly affects me and my grades I wouldn't really care. I would stop respecting that person, but I doubt they would care.

You cannot have the honor code for some departments and not others. Also having students write the honor code and then proctoring exams totally undermines the honor code (like asking for students to be trustworthy and then not trusting them).

the honor code is great but the culture among male athletes especially encourages cheating

Better explanation of the importance of the Honor Code during orientation. Professors should also explain their own take on the Honor Code and what they expect of their students at the beginning of the course.

Reforming the trial procedures as they were unnecessarily stressful.

I like the principle, but I don’t think that its existence prevents students from violating it. I think that students who are personally opposed to cheating won't cheat regardless of the Honor Code and that students who want to cheat won't let it stop them if they think they'll get away with it.
Not about the honor code, but Dean Sutherland made my freshman experience miserable. He never remembered anyone, and was very unapproachable. He also gave punishments that other deans did not. Katie and Linda were great though.

I think it's fine the way it is, and I don't really understand why people have issues with it.

I think parts of the honor code that prohibit peer editing outside of the CTLR acts to curb intellectual growth outside the classroom.

The clause about students being responsible for ratting out cheating students is BS.

Actually implementing it!! It kills me to see so many students cheat, especially in econ. I also feel that athletes breaking the honor code are punished more leniently than they should be.

Have heard of gross injustices and accusations made of students. Completely ridiculous amount of red tape involved. Important value, but absolutely misused and a misrepresented process by administration and admissions.

It should be made stricter. With professors proctoring exams, there will be much less opportunity for cheating and less pressure on students to report on their peers.

Reinstate for all majors.

The definition of "cheating" should be rephrased to clarify that it applies to all assignments. (I say this as a member of the Academic Judicial Board.)