

George Mason University

THE HONOR COMMITTEE

STUDENT RIGHTS IN HONOR CODE CASES

All students are responsible for upholding the standards outlined in the George Mason University Honor Code. If a student is accused of a violation of the Honor Code, the student-directed Honor Committee will conduct an inquiry and hearing to determine whether a violation has occurred. The Honor Committee will also recommend sanctions in those cases where a violation has occurred.

Students accused of violating the University Honor Code are guaranteed certain procedural rights. A student accused of an Honor Code violation has the following rights:

1. The right to receive written notification of charges.
2. The right to a hearing to determine guilt or innocence.
3. The right to know the name(s) of the accuser(s). The right to know in advance of the hearing the name of any witness to be called by the accuser. The hearing panel reserves the right to request or require the presence of witnesses that the judges determine may provide substantial evidence needed for a fair judgment of guilt or innocence. The judges may also determine if a hearing delay is necessary for either side to prepare to respond to a panel-called witness.
4. The right not to be compelled to be a witness against oneself or to have his/her silence taken as an indication of guilt.
5. The right to provide written or verbal 'quality of character' statements from anyone within the George Mason University academic community. A student may also provide relevant evidence from outside the George Mason University academic community. This may include a report of any medical problems; physical or psychological. Evidence of this nature must be available to all parties at least one working day prior to the hearing.
6. The right to obtain counsel from within the student body (excluding the School of Law).
7. The right to have access to the records of the case under specific conditions.
8. The right to appeal decisions based on the introduction of new evidence or procedural irregularities.