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Living with the honor principle

Introduction

Living with the [honor principle](#) is one of the principles that has shaped the challenging aspects of studying at Reed. But what is the honor principle? It has no official definition; you will find it in the community constitution or tucked away in some obscure place.

Instead, each member of the Reed community must work to develop an understanding of it, both as an individual and as a community member. You should keep this in mind as you read and think about the honor principle.

This guidebook explores how the honor principle can be both useful and used, despite the fact that it is not explicitly defined. We hope to help you think about what the honor principle is and how it works. The honor principle is not an easy way to run community affairs: it would be much easier to impose endless rules and regulations, the route chosen by many other colleges and universities.

Reed, however, remains committed to the notion that the expectation of honorable conduct is the best way to run its internal affairs. Each individual must recognize and accept the extraordinary responsibility placed on him or her by the honor principle in order for the community to function effectively for everyone.

Old Reed characterizations

Ignorance of the honor principle

honor p

by acting in a responsible manner toward honor violations that come to their attention. Members of the community should recognize their obligations to notify the judicial board of actions involving a breach of the honor principle, even though such actions may be their own."

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