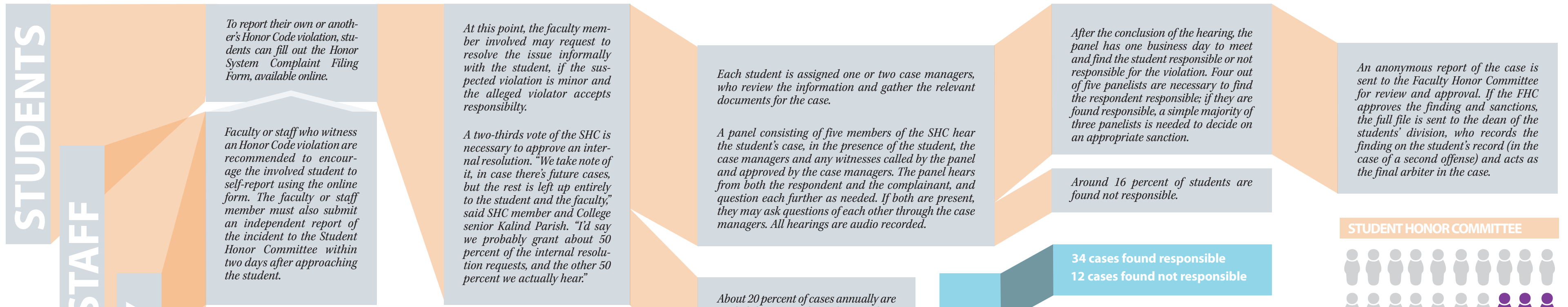


THE HONOR CODE: Oberlin College students are on their honor to uphold a high degree of academic integrity. All work that students submit is expected to be of their own creation and give proper credit to the ideas and work of others. When students write and sign the Honor Pledge, they are affirming that they have not cheated, plagiarized, fabricated or falsified information, nor assisted others in these actions.

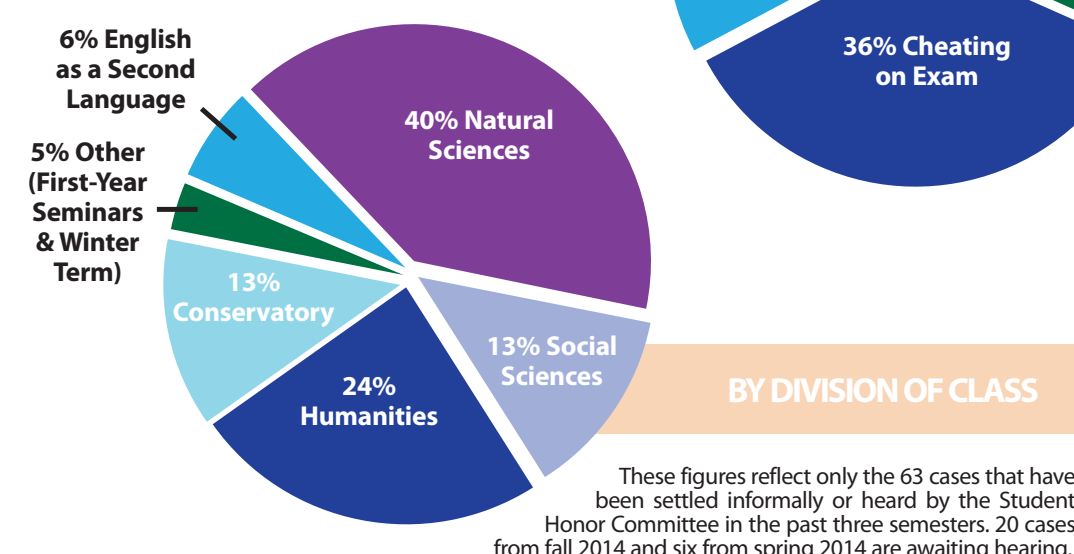
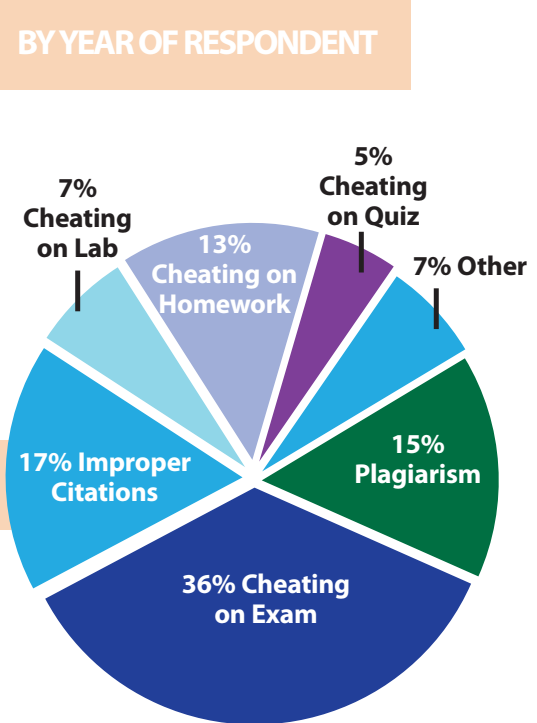
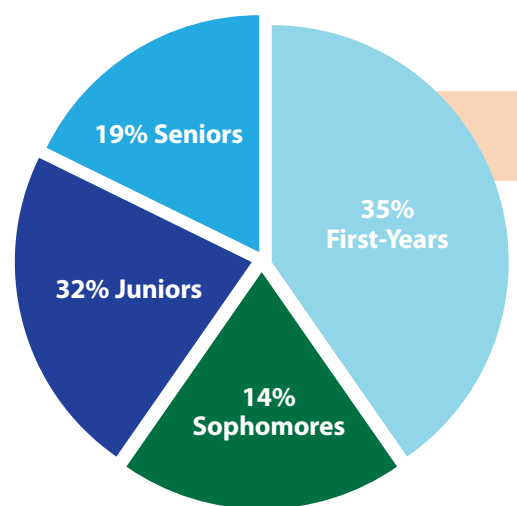
—full text of the Honor Code printed in the Student Regulations, Policies and Procedures Handbook



STUDENTS
STAFF
FACULTY

OUTCOMES FROM THE PAST THREE SEMESTERS

89 students were reported for Honor Code violations



These figures reflect only the 63 cases that have been settled informally or heard by the Student Honor Committee in the past three semesters. 20 cases from fall 2014 and six from spring 2014 are awaiting hearing.

About 20 percent of cases annually are settled by internal resolution; these are taken note of in case the student is reported again but do not go on their permanent record.

17 cases settled internally
26 cases awaiting a hearing
46 cases heard by the SHC

34 cases found responsible
12 cases found not responsible

Does the Oberlin Honor Code work?

That's my impression. I think there's a large majority of the students that take the Honor Code very seriously and do follow it. I think that there's probably a small subset of folks that see it as something they can get away with, in some cases, in terms of the seriousness that they take the Honor Code, but it's not my sense that it's a majority or it's a large group of individuals.
—Benjamin Kuperman, chair of the Faculty Honor Committee

I think it's good in theory; I don't think it's good in practice. I do like the idea of students being involved; I think it's a good thing to have that system of checks and balances between students and faculty. What I don't like is that (a) the faculty never interacts with the defendant, and (b) that once a decision is made there is absolutely no way to go and actually change the decision. They say that they've never changed it in the entire history; I think there's something wrong with that. That's a broken system — there's no way they've never made a mistake.
—Tori Willbanks-Roos, College sophomore and respondent in an Honor Code case

I think it's a pretty good system in general; I mean, there's always going to be loopholes, but I would say it works. Students have a fair amount of freedom; they're trusted to go take a take-home exam in their room or something if they wanted to. ... I think it also provides a system of trust between students and teachers that you wouldn't find at most other schools.
—Kalind Parish, College senior and SHC member

Common misconceptions

"Any Honor Code violation will go on your record."
Actually: It's done in a way that's very anonymized. So the faculty do not know — there's not a mark on [the student's] record [for the first violation]. ... And it's important for the faculty to know that reporting something is not going to be necessarily something that's ending a student's career or getting them kicked out.
—Benjamin Kuperman, chair of the Faculty Honor Committee

"People cheat more in the most academically rigorous classes."
Actually: [Many] of our cases come from either English learning classes for people who ... maybe come from a culture where plagiarism isn't quite as big of a deal, and then also a lot of Conservatory cases. We're definitely trying to expand the education opportunities to both of those areas. ... What we're trying to do is achieve a 50–50 balance; 50 percent enforcing the Honor Code, handing out sanctions, determining the responsibility, and then the other 50 percent being education.
—Kalind Parish, College senior and SHC member

"Most people are turned in by their peers or professors."
Actually: About 50 percent of our cases are actually self-reports. ... I think there was one time when we found someone actually not responsible when they self-reported, because we were like, "No, that was not a violation, you're fine."
—Kalind Parish, College senior and SHC member

STUDENT HONOR COMMITTEE



17 of the 30 available spaces on the Student Honor Committee are currently vacant.

DEMOGRAPHICS

4 men
9 women
3 international students
1 student of color

AVERAGE SANCTIONS

Cheating on Exam: 8 hrs community service; 2 to 4-page reflection paper
Cheating on Quiz: 5 hrs community service
Plagiarism: 7 hrs community service; short reflection paper or fix citations

Citations vary in each case; these numbers represent common sanctions given in cases that were not resolved internally.

After the first violation, sanctions increase considerably, up to 40 hours of community service for a case of plagiarism.

Every year, one in every 60 students is accused of an Honor Code violation. For the remaining students, the honor system can seem mysterious at best. This week, the *Review* sat down with three of the thirteen current members of the Student Honor Committee, the chair of the Faculty Honor Committee and a student who has been through the honor system in order to hear a range of different opinions about how the system functions and common misconceptions.

This Week editor: Hazel Galloway
Contributing writer: Lydia Moran

CALENDAR

Danenberg Honors Recital Part 1
Friday, Feb. 13, 7–9 p.m.
Warner Concert Hall
This annual recital showcases 20 outstanding Conservatory students performing eight different pieces, ranging from Bach to Rachmaninoff to an electronic piece written and performed by double-degree senior Mitchell Herrmann. This recital constitutes the first segment of a two-part series, the second part of which will take place at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21.

Render: A Senior Dance Concert
Friday, Feb. 13 and Saturday, Feb. 14, 8–9 p.m.
Warner Annex, Main Space
This dance and theater piece directed, choreographed and performed by College senior Miryam Coppersmith examines the ideas of permanence and impermanence in performance. It incorporates dance, speech, projected visuals and live electronics in a unique arrangement united by the words of Norbert Wiener, a founder of the field of cybernetics.

Hales Late-Nighter
Friday, Feb. 13, 9 p.m.–1 a.m.
Hales Annex
The Hales annex will be open late to ring in Valentine's Day with free bowling, pool, food from The Feve and, at midnight, speed dating in the Cat in the Cream. To add to the festive atmosphere, student bands including Flutocracy, The Conductor and the Oberlin Mandolin Revival will be playing throughout the night.

A Path Appears Documentary Screening
Sunday, Feb. 15, 7–9 p.m.
King Building 306
This film aims to show viewers the ubiquitous nature of gender-based discrimination and inequality by following a team of reporters, authors and activists around the globe as it visits places suffering from extreme gender-based oppression and human rights violations. Shining Hope for Communities will host the screening, which features SHOFCO's work at a Kenyan school for girls.

Voices for Christ Gospel Concert
Sunday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m.
The Cat in the Cream
Voices for Christ, Oberlin's gospel choir, will be holding a free concert at the Cat in the Cream in honor of Black History Month. The concert also celebrates singer Andraé Crouch, who passed away in January and was known as the father of modern gospel music. Voices for Christ will be accompanied by a band that will include Conservatory and College musicians.

Rules of Engagement: Civil War Courtship Letters
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 4:30 p.m.
Mudd library 050
Professor of History Carol Lasser will give a presentation on Civil War-era letters written between Oberlin residents and other soldiers on the battlefield and their sweethearts at home. The correspondences shed light on how soldiers relied on their loved ones at home for emotional support during the long hostilities.

Dear White People Film Screening
Wednesday, Feb. 18, 9:30 p.m.
Apollo Theatre
This much-talked about satirical drama examining the position of people of color in America flared up on social media following its premiere at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival. As the film progresses, four Black college students find their lives complicated by issues of race they raise on their campus. A discussion will follow the screening.