



Seidman College of Business

Student

Code of Honor





May 1, 2011

To Members of the University Community:

As President of Grand Valley State University, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize and congratulate the students in the Seidman College of Business for creating and adopting their own moral educational compass in the form of this *Student Code of Honor*. I trust it will help them shape their lives, their professions, and their societies.

Please join me in applauding this special effort. This action will only enhance the current atmosphere that promotes intellectual character for our entire university community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "J. Haas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "H".

Thomas J. Haas, President
Grand Valley State University

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The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of teachers and scholars. As such, the Seidman College of Business expects both faculty and students to honor these principles and, in so doing, to forge a lifelong commitment to ethical behavior.

To uphold and promote the highest standards of behavior in the academic and professional world, I hereby make the following pledge.

As a member of the Seidman College of Business, I shall

- conduct myself with the highest level of integrity,
- maintain accountability for my actions and encourage the same of others, and
- be open, fair, trustworthy and honest.

Additionally, I will strive for

- continuous self-improvement,
- intellectual engagement,
- global perspective, and
- advancement of sustainable business practices.

I shall not

lie, cheat, steal, or plagiarize.

I recognize that compliance with this Student Code, established by Grand Valley State University business students, is the minimum standard that must be followed to maintain good standing as a member of the Seidman College of Business. As a member of this organization, I will strive to reach levels of excellence that will serve as benchmarks of ethics and performance in the academic and business communities.

STUDENT CODE OF HONOR POLICY

“The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of teachers and scholars. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing protect the validity of University grades.”¹ Accordingly, the Seidman College of Business promotes the integrity of its academic programs and learning opportunities by adhering to all aspects of the Grand Valley State University Student Code, especially those dealing with academic honesty. Moreover, in recognition and support of Seidman students’ demonstrated commitment to furthering these principles and holding themselves and their classmates to higher standards of responsibility and accountability, the Seidman College of Business faculty, hereby, ratifies the students’ vote to implement the Seidman College of Business Student Code of Honor. Moreover, the Seidman faculty pledges to support the academic-integrity-related goals and objectives of the Seidman College of Business Student Code of Honor, as approved by the Seidman College of Business students.²

As faculty members of the Seidman College of Business, we pledge to model standards of excellence in academic integrity and honor and to hold students responsible and accountable for upholding the Seidman College of Business Student Code of Honor. Therefore, we pledge to enforce the Student Code of Honor, in accordance with the boundaries of the existing *Grand Valley State University Student Code*.

[Approved by Seidman College of Business Faculty Senate: 15 April 2011]



H. James Williams, Dean
Seidman College of Business

¹ Section 223.00: Integrity of Scholarship and Grades, of the *Grand Valley State University Student Code* (2010-2011).

²Vote conducted on November 4, 2010 and approved by 426 (88.75%) of the 480 students casting votes.

TERMS AND PHRASES ¹

Truth: quality of being genuine, actual, or factual; sincerity in action, character, and utterance.

Ethical Behavior: behavior that is moral, upright, honest; acting in a manner that adheres to accepted standards of moral conduct.

Integrity: adherence to a code of especially moral or ethical values.

Open: completely free from concealment; ready to entertain new ideas; not biased or prejudiced.

Fair: marked by impartiality and honesty; free from self-interest, prejudice, or favoritism.

Trustworthy: deserving of trust; dependable; reliable.

Honest: free from fraud or deception; legitimate, truthful.

Continuous Self-Improvement: continually working towards enhancing one's value, character, or excellence.

Intellectual Engagement: commitment to working in activity requiring study, reflection, and speculation.

Global Perspective: understanding and awareness of self in the context of the larger community and the world, including diverse beliefs and values held by others, enabling informed judgments and actions.

Sustainable Business Practices: enhancement of environmental, social, and economic resources, in order to meet the needs of current and future generations, through business operations and results.

Lie: to make an untrue statement with intent to deceive.

Cheat: to gain advantage or to deprive of something valuable through the use of deceit or fraud.

Steal: to take the property of another without permission or right; to take or appropriate the ideas of others without right or leave and with the intent to keep or make use of wrongfully.

Plagiarize: to appropriate the ideas or words of another as one's own; to use (another's production) without crediting the source. Plagiarism may take the form of repeating another's sentences as your own, adopting a particularly apt phrase as your own, paraphrasing someone else's argument as your own, or even presenting someone else's line of thinking in the development of a thesis as though it were your own. In short, to plagiarize is to give the impression that you have written or thought something that you have in fact borrowed from another person. Although a writer may often use another person's words and thoughts, they must be acknowledged as such.

¹These definitions and expositions represent work from other sources, including the following: (1) Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary: Tenth Edition, Merriam-Webster, Incorporated 1999; and (2) Dictionary.com N.p., n.d. Web 28 April 2011.

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