

Honor Code Notice to All Students

Recently, the Academic Responsibility Committee reprimanded a student who failed to disclose a criminal arrest and charge on their University of South Carolina School of Law application for admission. The student claimed that they relied on advice from members of the legal community who told them that failure to complete the application truthfully would likely result in a verbal reprimand from the Law School's Academic Responsibility Committee.

All students are now on notice that any false statement on a School of Law admissions application is likely to result in suspension or other penalty greater than a reprimand. Students will be held entirely accountable for their decisions. Reliance on advice that is contrary to the requirements of the application does not excuse failure to comply.

The Panel also takes this opportunity to provide specific notice of certain changes to the Honor Code. Part D of the Honor Code and Disciplinary Procedures requires students to report all arrests, charges, or convictions (including entry of a plea other than not guilty) for any offense other than a minor traffic violation for which a fine of \$100 or less to Dean Palmer within 72 hours of their occurrence. If a student is unsure about whether their arrest, charge, or conviction requires reporting they should meet with Dean Palmer. All current students are responsible for understanding and complying with this provision.

All students are subject to the Honor Code at all times during their tenure at the School of Law. The duty of honesty contained in the Honor Code is an ongoing duty, and withholding information can be as dishonest as providing false information. In the future, a student's failure to read the Honor Code or to keep up with changes to the Honor Code will not prevent the student from receiving serious sanctions, including suspension, for an Honor Code violation.