



December 2025

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL FOR GAO-26-107049

December 2025

This product is a supplement to *Service Academies: Clarifying Guidance Would Enhance Effectiveness of Honor and Conduct Systems* ([GAO-26-107049](#))

Background

This supplemental material presents the questionnaires used to survey students at each of the five service academies (United States Military Academy (West Point); United States Naval Academy (Naval Academy); United States Air Force Academy (Air Force Academy); United States Coast Guard Academy (Coast Guard Academy); and United States Merchant Marine Academy (Merchant Marine Academy)). Additional supplemental materials containing the results of our surveys are available online ([GAO-26-108179](#)) for each academy.¹

To obtain student perceptions, attitudes, and experiences with their academy's honor and conduct systems, we surveyed a census of 6,984 sophomore through senior students in the fall semester of academic year 2024-2025 at each academy.² Each Academy population received the same questionnaire, but with question and response options tailored to each academy's terminology and processes. We tracked responses with differing terminology by assigning a standardized code to comparable questions and response sets across academies, which helped to ensure the consistency of our analysis. At the end of our survey period, we received from:

- West Point – 972 complete responses (31 percent response rate)
- Naval Academy – 3,086 complete responses (94 percent response rate)
- Air Force Academy – 2,026 complete responses (68 percent response rate)
- Coast Guard Academy – 503 complete responses (61 percent response rate)
- Merchant Marine Academy – 397 complete responses (88 percent response rate)

For our analysis of survey responses, available online ([GAO-26-108179](#)), we performed a nonresponse bias analysis using the available student population data. We compared nonrespondents to respondents based on characteristics such as class year, gender, and race/ethnicity and identified differences for some race/ethnicity and gender groups, depending upon the academy. We applied weighting as appropriate to align survey respondents with the overall demographics of their respective academies. For the academies with lower response rates, non-response bias may exist due to unobservable characteristics, but any bias related to demographics included in the non-response model (race and ethnicity, gender, and class year) is mitigated. The survey results in our online supplemental materials are presented by Academy and each question, excluding those with open-ended responses, is presented with its weighted results including margins of error for each response. All survey results are generalizable to the

¹Responses to open-ended questions are not included in the supplemental materials to preserve the privacy of survey-takers.

²We did not include members of the new fourth class (freshman) population due to the limited amount of time these students had been subject to honor and conduct processes at the time of our survey.

population of their respective academies, unless otherwise noted. Further information on our methodology can be found in appendix I of the report ([GAO-26-107049](#)).³

We are sending copies of this report to the appropriate congressional committees, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Air Force, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Secretary of Transportation. In addition, this report is available at no charge on the GAO website at <http://www.gao.gov>.

We conducted the work upon which this supplement is based in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objective.

Contact

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³Blank cells in survey results indicate either that the estimate was not sufficiently reliable or that the response option was not applicable to a given academy's survey. Questionnaire reproductions, including the response options provided to each academy, are provided in this supplement.

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West Point Questionnaire

Start of Block: Introduction

Intro

GAO Survey of Academy Honor and Conduct Systems

Who We Are

The US Government Accountability Office (GAO) is an independent and nonpartisan research agency, and we have been tasked by Congress to review the federal service academies' honor and conduct systems.

Why We Want to Hear from You

We are conducting this survey to gather the perspectives and experiences of midshipmen and cadets enrolled in service academies. We will ask you questions about your familiarity with, perceptions of, and experiences with the Academy's honor and conduct systems. Your responses will provide valuable information to GAO as we conduct our review.

GAO pledges to maintain the anonymity of individual information and responses to this survey. We will not share individually identifiable information, such as names, collected during the course of our work outside of GAO. While the results will generally be provided in summary form in our report, individual answers may be discussed, but they will not include any information that could be used to identify individual respondents. Prior to the completion of our final report, we will permanently remove all identifiers from the surveys, and we will destroy all records that link completed surveys to individual respondents.

How to Complete the Questionnaire

We estimate that this questionnaire will take approximately 25-35 minutes to complete. While completing the questionnaire, your responses will automatically be saved so you can return to the questionnaire any time before submitting it. Once completed, click the "Submit and Close" button. If you need to redo your questionnaire after submitting it, you can request a survey retake link. However, using the new link will reset the survey and all previous responses will be lost.

If you have any questions, please contact [redacted], or email GAOAcademySurvey@gao.gov. By completing this questionnaire, you will help us provide Congress with information to understand your Academy's honor and conduct systems. Thank you for your participation.

End of Block: Introduction

Start of Block: Definitions

Honor and conduct **Defining Honor and Conduct**

In this questionnaire, we will ask you questions about the honor system and conduct system.

By **honor system**, we refer to the honor code that sets the standard for moral behavior of cadets at the Academy, including that they shall not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do, and to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the code.

By **conduct system**, we refer to the academy's conduct policy that defines acceptable cadet behavior as adherence to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), civilian laws, and Army and Academy directives and standards, and to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the policy. Violations of the conduct policy may range from minor violations, such as not adhering to uniform standards, to more serious violations, such as drug possession.

End of Block: Definitions

Start of Block: Honor System

Honor Familiarity **Familiarity with the Honor System**

In this section, we will ask about your familiarity with the **honor system**. There is another section that asks about the conduct system. By **honor system**, we mean your Academy's honor code and the processes used to adjudicate any violations. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions.

Page Break

Q1 How familiar, if at all, are you with the contents of your Academy's honor policies?

Consider these elements: the definition of honor terms, what constitutes an honor violation, and the processes for reporting, investigating, and adjudicating a violation. *(Select one)*

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Mostly familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q2 How familiar, if at all, are you with the possible consequences of violating the honor code, such as loss of privileges? (Select one)

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Mostly familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q3 In which of the following ways, if any, did you learn about the Academy's honor system? (Select one per row)

	Yes (1)	No (2)
Instruction as a component of first-year orientation or basic training (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in military training (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in academic classes (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Memos or other written communication from Academy officers or staff (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
From other cadets in informal settings (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Q4 Have you ever taken any of the following actions related to the honor system? There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized. *(Select one per row)*

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know (3)
Observed a possible honor violation (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tolerated a possible honor violation (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Confronted a cadet about a possible honor violation (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reported a possible honor violation (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Investigated a possible honor violation (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Observed an honor board hearing, without direct involvement (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Testified as a witness in an honor board hearing (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participated as a board member or in other leadership position at an honor board hearing (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Honor Perceptions **Perceptions of the Honor System**

In this section, we will ask you about your opinions on how the honor system has been applied during your time at the Academy. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

Q5 In your opinion, how fair, if at all, are the following items? (Select one per row)

	Not at all fair (1)	Somewhat fair (2)	Mostly fair (3)	Very fair (4)	Don't know (5)
Honor Code (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Honor Investigations prior to Boards convening (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Honor Boards (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Length of time an honor case takes (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The honor system as a whole (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

X→

Q6 How likely, if at all, are you to confront another cadet you observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to confront (1)
- Somewhat likely to confront (2)
- Moderately likely to confront (3)
- Very likely to confront (4)
- Don't know (5)

X→

Q7 How likely, if at all, are you to report another cadet you observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

X→

Q8 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical cadet is to confront another cadet they observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to confront (1)
- Somewhat likely to confront (2)
- Moderately likely to confront (3)
- Very likely to confront (4)
- Don't know (5)

X→

Q9 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical cadet is to report another cadet they observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q10 How important, if at all, are the following factors in your consideration about whether or not to report another cadet for an honor violation? (Select one per row)

	Not at all important (1)	Somewhat important (2)	Very important (3)
Rank of cadet (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social status of cadet (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fear of punishment for tolerating an honor violation (11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your relationship with the cadet (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether or not you can address the violation informally (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer advice (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possible impact to another cadet's grades or career (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible violation (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible consequence (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether you observed the violation or only heard about it (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possibility of shunning from others due to reporting a violation (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your belief that almost everyone has violated the code at some point (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal experience with violating the code yourself (13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

X→

Q11 In your opinion, how frequently do you believe each of the following occurs on your campus? (Select one per row)

	Not at all frequently (1)	Somewhat frequently (2)	Moderately frequently (3)	Very frequently (4)
Lying (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stealing (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cheating (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tolerating (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Intro In the next set of questions, we will ask you about both **findings** and **consequences** resulting from honor boards. By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of honor boards, such as separation or turn-backs. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.



Q12 In your opinion, do you think findings for the same honor offenses are applied fairly across all cadets? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all cadets (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all cadets (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q12 = 2



Q12a **Why do you think findings for the same honor offenses are not applied fairly across all cadets?** By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred. *(Select all that apply)*

- Race/ethnicity of cadet (1)
- Gender of cadet (2)
- Rank of cadet (3)
- Athlete status of cadet (4)
- Social status of cadet (5)
- Different understanding of rules and regulations among honor board members (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break

Intro As a reminder, by “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of honor boards, such as separation or turn-backs.

X+

Q13 In your opinion, do you think consequences for the same honor offenses are applied fairly across all cadets? By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of honor boards, such as separation or turn-backs. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all cadets (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all cadets (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q13 = 2

X+

Q13a Why do you think consequences for the same honor offenses are not applied fairly across all cadets? By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of honor boards, such as separation or turn-backs (*Select all that apply*)

- Race/ethnicity of cadet (1)
- Gender of cadet (2)
- Rank of cadet (3)
- Athlete status of cadet (4)
- Social status of cadet (5)
- Different understanding of rules and regulations among honor board members (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break



Q14 In your opinion, what do you think is the main purpose of the honor system? There is no correct or incorrect answer to this question. (Select one)

- Develop ethical behavior (1)
- Increase peer accountability (2)
- Correct cadet behavior (3)
- Punish cadet behavior (4)
- Enhance institutional reputation (5)
- Other (please describe): (6)

- Don't know (7)

Page Break

Q15 In your opinion, how strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Select one per row)

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Somewhat agree (3)	Strongly agree (4)	No opinion (5)
Toleration is less serious than other honor offenses. (Q16_1)	<input type="radio"/>				
Loyalty among cadets is more important than abiding by the honor code. (Q16_2)	<input type="radio"/>				
Most faculty members report possible cases of academic cheating upon discovering it. (Q16_4)	<input type="radio"/>				

Page Break

Honor Experience **Experience with the Honor System**

In this section, we will ask about your experience with the honor system. Some of the following questions address experiences that may be sensitive or personal. Answering these questions is completely voluntary, but your responses will help us better understand your Academy's honor system. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

X→

Q16 Have you ever been accused of violating the honor code? As a reminder, your responses will be anonymized. (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I'd rather not say (3)

Display This Question:

If $Q16 = 1$

Q16a What was the outcome of you being accused of violating the honor code? If you were accused more than once, please answer about your most recent experience. (Select one)

- I was confronted, and it did not proceed to a formal report. (1)
- I was investigated but it did not result in an honor board. (2)
- I did not admit to the violation and was the subject of an honor board hearing. (3)
- I admitted to the violation and was the subject of an honor board hearing. (4)
- Other (please describe): (5)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If $Q16 = 1$

Q16b Please describe how you felt going through the honor process after being accused of violating the honor code. If you have been through the process more than once, please speak to the most recent experience.



Q17 Has the honor system ever been unfairly applied to you? By honor system, we refer to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the honor code.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I've never been through the honor system (3)
- Don't know (4)

Display This Question:

If $Q17 = 1$

Or Q17 = 4

Q17a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example of your experience with the honor system being unfairly applied to you.

Q18 Have you ever directly witnessed the honor system be unfairly applied to another cadet? By honor system, we refer to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the honor code.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q18 = 1

Or Q18 = 3

Q18a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example where you directly witnessed the honor system being unfairly applied to another cadet.

Page Break

Q19 Comments on the Honor System

If you have any additional comments about the honor system, please provide them in the space below.

End of Block: Honor System

Start of Block: Conduct System

Conduct Familiarity **Familiarity with the Conduct System**

This section will focus on your awareness of the **conduct system**. There is another section that asks about the honor system. By **conduct system**, we refer to the academy's conduct policy that defines acceptable cadet behavior and to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the policy. Violations of the conduct policy may range from minor violations, such as not adhering to uniform standards, to more serious violations such as drug possession.

Page Break

Q20 How familiar, if at all, are you with the contents of your Academy's conduct policies and regulations? (Select one)

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Moderately familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q21 How familiar, if at all, are you with the possible consequences of violating the conduct policies and regulations? (Select one)

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Moderately familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q22 In which of the following ways, if any, did you learn about the Academy's conduct policies and regulations, such as what constitutes a conduct violation? (Select one per row)

	Yes (1)	No (2)
Instruction as a component of first-year orientation or basic training (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in military training (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in academic classes (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Memos or other written communication from Academy officers or staff (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
From other cadets in informal settings (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Q23 Have you ever taken any of the following actions related to the conduct system?

There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized. (Select one per row)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know (3)
Observed a possible conduct violation (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Confronted another cadet about a possible conduct violation (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reported to staff a possible conduct violation (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Observed a conduct adjudication or related disciplinary hearing, without direct involvement (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provided a written witness statement to a conduct board/investigating official (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Testified as a witness in a conduct adjudication, or related disciplinary hearing (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Conduct Perceptions **Perceptions of the Conduct System**

In this section, we will ask about your opinions on how the conduct system has been applied during your time at the Academy. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

X→

Q24 How likely, if at all, are you to report another cadet for a minor conduct violation?
(Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

X→

Q25 How likely, if at all, are you to report another cadet for a major conduct violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break



Q26 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical cadet is to report another cadet for a minor conduct violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)



Q27 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical cadet is to report another cadet for a major conduct violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q28 How important, if at all, are the following factors in your consideration about whether or not to report another cadet for a conduct violation? (Select one per row)

	Not at all important (1)	Somewhat important (2)	Very important (3)
Rank of cadet (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social status of cadet (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your relationship with the cadet (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer advice (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possible impact to another cadet's grades or career (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible violation (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible consequence (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether you observed the violation or only heard about it (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possibility of shunning from others due to reporting a violation (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your belief that almost everyone has violated the policies at some point (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal experience with violating the policies yourself (13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break



Q29 In your opinion, what do you think is the main purpose of the conduct system?

There is no correct or incorrect answer to this question. *(Select one)*

- Develop ethical behavior (1)
- Increase peer accountability (2)
- Correct cadet behavior (3)
- Punish cadet behavior (4)
- Enhance institutional reputation (5)
- Other (please describe): (6)

- Don't know (7)

Page Break

Intro In the next set of questions, we will ask you about both **findings** and **consequences** resulting from conduct adjudications. By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

X→

Q30 In your opinion, do you think findings for the same conduct offenses are applied fairly across all cadets? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all cadets (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all cadets (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q30 = 2

X→

Q30a Why do you think findings for the same conduct offenses are not applied fairly across all cadets? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. *(Select all that apply)*

- Race/ethnicity of cadet (1)
- Gender of cadet (2)
- Rank of cadet (3)
- Athlete status of cadet (4)
- Social status of cadet (5)
- Different understanding of rules among authority figures (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break

Intro As a reminder, by “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations.

X+

Q31 In your opinion, do you think consequences for the same conduct offenses are applied fairly across all cadets? By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all cadets (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all cadets (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q31 = 2

X+

Q31a Why do you think consequences for the same conduct offenses are not applied fairly across all cadets? By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations. *(Select all that apply)*

- Race/ethnicity of cadet (1)
- Gender of cadet (2)
- Rank of cadet (3)
- Athlete status of cadet (4)
- Social status of cadet (5)
- Different understanding of rules among authority figures (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break

Conduct Experience **Experience with the Conduct System**

In this section, we will ask about your experience with the conduct system. Some of the following questions address experiences that may be sensitive or personal. Answering these questions is completely voluntary, but your responses will help us better understand your Academy's conduct system. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

X→

Q32 Have you ever been accused of violating the conduct policies and regulations? As a reminder, your responses will be anonymized. *(Select one)*

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I'd rather not say (3)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q32 = 1

X→

Q32a What was the outcome of you being accused of violating the conduct policies and regulations? If you were accused more than once, please answer about your most recent experience. (Select one)

- I talked with the accuser, and it did not proceed to a formal report. (1)
- I received less-punitive discipline such as counseling, corrective action, or a developmental assignment. (2)
- The violation was handled, and I received punishment such as demerits. (3)
- I was investigated but it did not result in a misconduct hearing, or other related administrative hearing. (4)
- I was the subject of a misconduct hearing or other related administrative hearing. (5)
- Other (Please describe): (6)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q32 = 1

Q32b Please describe how you felt going through the conduct process after being accused of violating the conduct policies and regulations. If you have been through the process more than once, please speak to the most recent experience.

Page Break



Q33 Has the conduct system ever been unfairly applied to you? (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I've never been through the conduct system (3)
- Don't know (4)

Display This Question:

If $Q33 = 1$

Or $Q33 = 4$

Q33a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example of your experience with the conduct system being unfairly applied to you.

Page Break

X→

Q34 Have you ever directly witnessed the conduct system be unfairly applied to another cadet? (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q34 = 1

Or Q34 = 3

Q34a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example where you directly witnessed the conduct system being unfairly applied to another cadet.

Page Break

Q35 Comments on the Conduct System

If you have any additional comments about the conduct system, please provide them in the space below.

End of Block: Conduct System

Start of Block: Survey Taker Information

Intro Survey Taker Information

We are interested in understanding how different groups of cadets may differ in their familiarity or experiences with the honor and conduct process. As a result, the next section will ask you for demographic information. As a reminder, we will be summarizing results in our report and we will anonymize responses you provided.

Page Break

Q36 What is your class (graduating) year? (Select one)

- 2025 (1)
- 2026 (2)
- 2027 (3)

Page Break

Q37 What is your race and/or ethnicity? (Select all that apply)

- American Indian or Alaska Native (1)
- Asian (2)
- Black or African American (3)
- Hispanic/Latino (4)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
- White (6)

Page Break

Q38 What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Select one)

- Female (1)
- Male (2)
- Don't know (3)
- I'd rather not say (4)

Page Break

Q39 What is your gender/sexual identity? (Select one)

- Female (1)
- Male (2)
- Trans female/Trans woman (3)
- Trans male/Trans man (4)
- Gender queer/Gender non-conforming (5)
- Other (Please describe): (6)

- I'd rather not say (7)

Page Break

X→

Q40 Have you ever held any of the following roles at the Academy? (Select one per row)

Yes (1)

No (2)

Member of Honor Committee or Honor Staff (1)

Company level or higher leadership position (2)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q40 = 1 [1]

Or Q40 = 2 [1]

X→

Q40a We are interested in interviewing a few cadets from your Academy to talk more about their experiences with the Academy's honor and conduct system.

Would you be interested in talking with us?

Yes, please email me. (1)

No, I am not interested. (2)

End of Block: Survey Taker Information

Start of Block: End Survey

* ⊖ X→

End Survey If you are finished responding, please click "Yes, I am finished" below and the "Submit & Close" button (you will not be able to return to the questionnaire once you hit "Submit & Close").

- Yes, I am finished. (1)
- No, I would like to continue responding. (2)

End of Block: End Survey

Naval Academy Questionnaire

Start of Block: Introduction

Intro

GAO Survey of Academy Honor and Conduct Systems

Who We Are

The US Government Accountability Office (GAO) is an independent and nonpartisan research agency, and we have been tasked by Congress to review the federal service academies' honor and conduct systems.

Why We Want to Hear from You

We are conducting this survey to gather the perspectives and experiences of midshipmen and cadets enrolled in service academies. We will ask you questions about your familiarity with, perceptions of, and experiences with the Academy's honor and conduct systems. Your responses will provide valuable information to GAO as we conduct our review.

GAO pledges to maintain the anonymity of individual information and responses to this survey. We will not share individually identifiable information, such as names, collected during the course of our work outside of GAO. While the results will generally be provided in summary form in our report, individual answers may be discussed, but they will not include any information that could be used to identify individual respondents. Prior to the completion of our final report, we will permanently remove all identifiers from the surveys, and we will destroy all records that link completed surveys to individual respondents.

How to Complete the Questionnaire

We estimate that this questionnaire will take approximately 25-35 minutes to complete. While completing the questionnaire, your responses will automatically be saved so you can return to the questionnaire any time before submitting it. Once completed, click the "Submit and Close" button. If you need to redo your questionnaire after submitting it, you can request a survey retake link. However, using the new link will reset the survey and all previous responses will be lost.

If you have any questions, please contact [redacted], or email GAOAcademySurvey@gao.gov. By completing this questionnaire, you will help us provide Congress with information to understand your Academy's honor and conduct systems. Thank you for your participation.

End of Block: Introduction

Start of Block: Definitions

Honor and conduct **Defining Honor and Conduct** In this questionnaire, we will ask you questions about the honor system and conduct system.

By **honor system**, we refer to the honor concept that sets the standard for moral behavior of midshipmen at the Academy, including that they shall not lie, cheat, or steal, and to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the concept.

By **conduct system**, we refer to the Academy's conduct policy that defines acceptable midshipman behavior as adherence to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), civilian laws, and Navy and Academy directives and standards, and to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the code. Violations of the conduct policy may range from minor violations, such as not adhering to uniform standards, to more serious violations, such as drug possession.

End of Block: Definitions

Start of Block: Honor System

Honor Familiarity **Familiarity with the Honor System**

In this section, we will ask about your familiarity with the **honor system**. There is another section that asks about the conduct system. By **honor system**, we mean your Academy's honor concept and the processes used to adjudicate any violations. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions.

Page Break

Q1 How familiar, if at all, are you with the contents of your Academy's honor policies?

Consider these elements: the definition of honor terms, what constitutes an honor violation and the processes for reporting, investigating, and adjudicating a violation. *(Select one)*

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Mostly familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q2 How familiar, if at all, are you with the possible consequences of violating the honor concept, such as loss of privileges? *(Select one)*

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Mostly familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q3 In which of the following ways, if any, did you learn about the Academy's honor system? (Select one per row)

	Yes (1)	No (2)
Instruction as a component of first-year orientation or basic training (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in military training (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in academic classes (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Memos or other written communication from Academy officers or staff (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
From other midshipmen in informal settings (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Q4 Have you ever taken any of the following actions related to the honor system? There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized. *(Select one per row)*

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know (3)
Observed a possible honor violation (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tolerated a possible honor violation (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Confronted a midshipman about a possible honor violation (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reported a possible honor violation (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Investigated a possible honor violation (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Observed an honor board hearing without direct involvement (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Testified as a witness in an honor board hearing (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participated as a board member or in other leadership position at an honor board hearing (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Honor Perceptions **Perceptions of the Honor System**

In this section, we will ask you about your opinions on how the honor system has been applied during your time at the Academy. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

JS X→

Q5 In your opinion, how fair, if at all, are the following items? (Select one per row)

	Not at all fair (1)	Somewhat fair (2)	Mostly fair (3)	Very fair (4)	Don't know (5)
Honor Concept (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Honor Violation Investigations (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Honor Boards (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Length of time an honor case takes (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Honor Probation (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The honor system as a whole (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

X→

Q6 How likely, if at all, are you to confront another midshipman you observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to confront (1)
- Somewhat likely to confront (2)
- Moderately likely to confront (3)
- Very likely to confront (4)
- Don't know (5)

X→

Q7 How likely, if at all, are you to report another midshipman you observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

X→

Q8 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical midshipman is to confront another midshipman they observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to confront (1)
- Somewhat likely to confront (2)
- Moderately likely to confront (3)
- Very likely to confront (4)
- Don't know (5)

X→

Q9 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical midshipman is to report another midshipman they observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

X→

Q10 How important, if at all, are the following factors in your consideration about whether or not to report another midshipman for an honor violation? (Select one per row)

	Not at all important (1)	Somewhat important (2)	Very important (3)
Rank of midshipman (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social status of midshipman (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fear of punishment for tolerating an honor violation (11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your relationship with the midshipman (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether or not you can address the violation informally (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer advice (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possible impact to another midshipman's grades or career (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible violation (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible consequence (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether you observed the violation or only heard about it (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possibility of shunning from others due to reporting a violation (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your belief that almost everyone has violated the concept at some point (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal experience with violating the concept yourself (13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

X→

Q11 In your opinion, how frequently do you believe each of the following occurs on your campus? (Select one per row)

	Not at all frequently (1)	Somewhat frequently (2)	Moderately frequently (3)	Very frequently (4)
Lying (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stealing (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cheating (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tolerating (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Intro In the next set of questions, we will ask you about both **findings** and **consequences** resulting from honor boards. By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of honor boards, such as separation or turn-backs. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.



Q12 In your opinion, do you think findings for the same honor offenses are applied fairly across all midshipmen? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all midshipmen (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all midshipmen (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q12 = 2



Q12a Why do you think findings are not applied fairly across all midshipmen for the same honor offenses? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred. *(Select all that apply)*

- Race/ethnicity of midshipman (1)
- Gender of midshipman (2)
- Rank of midshipman (3)
- Athlete status of midshipman (4)
- Social status of midshipman (5)
- Different understanding of rules and regulations among honor board members (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break

Intro As a reminder, by “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of honor boards, such as separation or turn-backs.

X+

Q13 In your opinion, do you think consequences for the same honor offenses are applied fairly across all midshipmen? By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of honor boards, such as separation or turn-backs. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all midshipmen (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all midshipmen (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q13 = 2

X+

Q13a Why do you think consequences are not applied fairly across all midshipmen for the same honor offenses? By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of honor boards, such as separation or turn-backs (*Select all that apply*)

- Race/ethnicity of midshipman (1)
- Gender of midshipman (2)
- Rank of midshipman (3)
- Athlete status of midshipman (4)
- Social status of midshipman (5)
- Different understanding of rules and regulations among honor board members (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break



Q14 In your opinion, what do you think is the main purpose of the honor system? There is no correct or incorrect answer to this question. (Select one)

- Develop ethical behavior (1)
- Increase peer accountability (2)
- Correct midshipman behavior (3)
- Punish midshipman behavior (4)
- Enhance institutional reputation (5)
- Other (please describe): (6)

- Don't know (7)

Page Break

Q15 In your opinion, how strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Select one per row)

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Somewhat agree (3)	Strongly agree (4)	No opinion (5)
Toleration is less serious than other honor offenses. (Q16_1)	<input type="radio"/>				
Loyalty among midshipmen is more important than abiding by the honor concept. (Q16_2)	<input type="radio"/>				
Most faculty members report possible cases of academic cheating upon discovering it. (Q16_4)	<input type="radio"/>				

Page Break

Honor Experience Experience with the Honor System

In this section, we will ask about your experience with the honor system. Some of the following questions address experiences that may be sensitive or personal. Answering these questions is completely voluntary, but your responses will help us better understand your Academy's honor system. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

X→

Q16 Have you ever been accused of violating the honor concept? As a reminder, your responses will be anonymized. (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I'd rather not say (3)

Display This Question:

If Q16 = 1

X→

Q16a What was the outcome of you being accused of violating the honor concept? If you were accused more than once, please answer about your most recent experience. (Select one)

- I was confronted, and it did not proceed to a formal report. (1)
- I was investigated but it did not result in an honor board hearing. (2)
- I admitted guilt and was the subject of an honor board hearing. (3)
- I did not admit guilt and was the subject of an honor board hearing. (4)
- Other (please describe): (5)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q16 = 1

Q16b Please describe how you felt going through the honor process after being accused of violating the honor concept. If you have been through the process more than once, please speak to the most recent experience.

Page Break

X→

Q17 Has the honor system ever been unfairly applied to you? By honor system, we refer to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the honor concept.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I've never been through the honor system (3)
- Don't know (4)

Display This Question:

If Q17 = 1

Or Q17 = 4

Q17a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example of your experience with the honor system being unfairly applied to you.

Page Break



Q18 Have you ever directly witnessed the honor system be unfairly applied to another midshipman? By honor system, we refer to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the honor concept.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If $Q18 = 1$

Or Q18 = 3

Q18a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example where you directly witnessed the honor system being unfairly applied to another midshipman.

Page Break

Q19 Comments on the Honor System

If you have any additional comments about the honor system, please provide them in the space below.

End of Block: Honor System

Start of Block: Conduct System

Conduct Familiarity **Familiarity with the Conduct System**

This section will focus on your awareness of the **conduct system**. There is another section that asks about the honor system. By **conduct system**, we refer to the academy's conduct policy that defines acceptable midshipman behavior and to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the policy. Violations of the conduct policy may range from minor violations, such as not adhering to uniform standards, to more serious violations such as drug possession.

Page Break

Q20 How familiar, if at all, are you with the contents of your Academy's conduct policies and regulations? (Select one)

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Moderately familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q21 How familiar, if at all, are you with the possible consequences of violating the conduct policies and regulations? (Select one)

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Moderately familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q22 In which of the following ways, if any, did you learn about the Academy's conduct policies and regulations, such as what constitutes a conduct violation? (Select one per row)

	Yes (1)	No (2)
Instruction as a component of first-year orientation or basic training (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in military training (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in academic classes (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Memos or other written communication from Academy officers or staff (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
From other midshipmen in informal settings (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Q23 Have you ever taken any of the following actions related to the conduct system?

There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized. *(Select one per row)*

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know (3)
Observed a possible conduct violation (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Confronted another midshipman about a possible conduct violation (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reported to staff a possible conduct violation (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Observed a conduct adjudication, or related disciplinary hearing, without direct involvement (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provided a written witness statement to a conduct board/investigating official (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Testified as a witness in a conduct adjudication, or related disciplinary hearing (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Conduct Perceptions **Perceptions of the Conduct System**

In this section, we will ask about your opinions on how the conduct system has been applied during your time at the Academy. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

X→

Q24 How likely, if at all, are you to report another midshipman for a minor conduct violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

X→

Q25 How likely, if at all, are you to report another midshipman for a major or separation potential conduct violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break



Q26 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical midshipman is to report another midshipman for a minor conduct violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)



Q27 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical midshipman is to report another midshipman for a major or separation potential conduct violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q28 How important, if at all, are the following factors in your consideration about whether or not to report another midshipman for a conduct violation? (Select one per row)

	Not at all important (1)	Somewhat important (2)	Very important (3)
Rank of midshipman (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social status of midshipman (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your relationship with the midshipman (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer advice (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possible impact to another midshipman's grades or career (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible violation (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible consequence (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether you observed the violation or only heard about it (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possibility of shunning from others due to reporting a violation (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your belief that almost everyone has violated the policies at some point (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal experience with violating the policies yourself (13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break



Q29 In your opinion, what do you think is the main purpose of the conduct system?

There is no correct or incorrect answer to this question. (Select one)

- Develop ethical behavior (1)
- Increase peer accountability (2)
- Correct midshipman behavior (3)
- Punish midshipman behavior (4)
- Enhance institutional reputation (5)
- Other (please describe): (6)

- Don't know (7)

Page Break

Intro In the next set of questions, we will ask you about both **findings** and **consequences** resulting from conduct adjudications. By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

X→

Q30 In your opinion, do you think findings for the same conduct offenses are applied fairly across all midshipmen? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all midshipmen (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all midshipmen (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q30 = 2

X→

Q30a Why do you think findings for the same conduct offenses are not applied fairly across all midshipmen? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. *(Select all that apply)*

- Race/ethnicity of midshipman (1)
- Gender of midshipman (2)
- Rank of midshipman (3)
- Athlete status of midshipman (4)
- Social status of midshipman (5)
- Different understanding of rules among authority figures (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break

Intro As a reminder, by “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations.

X+

Q31 In your opinion, do you think consequences for the same conduct offenses are applied fairly across all midshipmen? By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all midshipmen (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all midshipmen (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q31 = 2

X+

Q31a Why do you think consequences are not applied fairly across all midshipmen for the same conduct offenses? By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations. *(Select all that apply)*

- Race/ethnicity of midshipman (1)
- Gender of midshipman (2)
- Rank of midshipman (3)
- Athlete status of midshipman (4)
- Social status of midshipman (5)
- Different understanding of rules among authority figures (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break

Conduct Experience Experience with the Conduct System

In this section, we will ask about your experience with the conduct system. Some of the following questions address experiences that may be sensitive or personal. Answering these questions is completely voluntary, but your responses will help us better understand your Academy’s conduct system. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

X+

Q32 Have you ever been accused of violating the conduct policies and regulations? As a reminder, your responses will be anonymized. (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I'd rather not say (3)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q32 = 1

X→

Q32a What was the outcome of you being accused of violating the conduct policies and regulations? If you were accused more than once, please answer about your most recent experience. (Select one)

- I talked with the accuser, and we resolved the misunderstanding. (1)
- I received a non-punitive discipline for a conduct violation, such as a counseling or a Negative Form-1. (2)
- The violation was handled, and I received punishment at or below the company level. (3)
- I was investigated, but it did not result in a consequence. (4)
- I admitted guilt, and received punishment. (5)
- I did not admit guilt and was the subject of a conduct adjudication, or other related disciplinary hearing. (6)
- Other (Please describe): (7)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q32 = 1

Q32b Please describe how you felt going through the conduct process after being accused of violating the conduct policies and regulations. If you have been through the process more than once, please speak to the most recent experience.

Page Break

X→

Q33 Has the conduct system ever been unfairly applied to you? (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I've never been through the conduct system (3)
- Don't know (4)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q33 = 1

Or Q33 = 4

Q33a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example of your experience with the conduct system being unfairly applied to you.

Page Break



Q34 Have you ever directly witnessed the conduct system be unfairly applied to another midshipman? (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If $Q34 = 1$

Or Q34 = 3

Q34a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example where you directly witnessed the conduct system being unfairly applied to another midshipman.

Page Break

Q35 Comments on the Conduct System

If you have any additional comments about the conduct system, please provide them in the space below.

End of Block: Conduct System

Start of Block: Survey Taker Information

Intro Survey Taker Information

We are interested in understanding how different groups of midshipmen may differ in their familiarity or experiences with the honor and conduct process. As a result, the next section will ask you for demographic information. As a reminder, we will anonymize the responses you provided.

Page Break



Q36 What is your class (graduating) year? (Select one)

- 2025 (1)
- 2026 (2)
- 2027 (3)

Page Break

Q37 What is your race and/or ethnicity? (Select all that apply)

- American Indian or Alaska Native (1)
- Asian (2)
- Black or African American (3)
- Hispanic/Latino (4)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
- White (6)

Page Break

Q38 What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Select one)

- Female (1)
- Male (2)
- Don't know (3)
- I'd rather not say (4)

Page Break

Q39 What is your gender/sexual identity? (Select one)

- Female (1)
- Male (2)
- Trans female/Trans woman (3)
- Trans male/Trans man (4)
- Gender queer/Gender non-conforming (5)
- Other (Please describe): (6)

- I'd rather not say (7)

Page Break**Q40 Have you ever held any of the following roles at the Academy? (Select one per row)**

Yes (1)

No (2)

Member of Honor Committee or
Company Honor staff (1)Midshipman command staff
position (2)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q40 = 1 [1]

Or Q40 = 2 [1]

X→

Q40a We are interested in interviewing a few midshipman from your Academy to talk more about their experiences with the Academy's honor and conduct system.

Would you be interested in talking with us?

- Yes, please email me. (1)
- No, I am not interested. (2)

End of Block: Survey Taker Information

Start of Block: End Survey

* ⊖ X→

End Survey If you are finished responding, please click "Yes, I am finished" below and the "Submit & Close" button (you will not be able to return to the questionnaire once you hit "Submit & Close").

- Yes, I am finished. (1)
- No, I would like to continue responding. (2)

End of Block: End Survey

Air Force Academy Questionnaire

Start of Block: Introduction

Intro

GAO Survey of Academy Honor and Conduct Systems

Who We Are

The US Government Accountability Office (GAO) is an independent and nonpartisan research agency, and we have been tasked by Congress to review the federal service academies' honor and conduct systems.

Why We Want to Hear from You

We are conducting this survey to gather the perspectives and experiences of midshipmen and cadets enrolled in service academies. We will ask you questions about your familiarity with, perceptions of, and experiences with the Academy's honor and conduct systems. Your responses will provide valuable information to GAO as we conduct our review.

GAO pledges to maintain the anonymity of individual information and responses to this survey. We will not share individually identifiable information, such as names, collected during the course of our work outside of GAO. While the results will generally be provided in summary form in our report, individual answers may be discussed, but they will not include any information that could be used to identify individual respondents. Prior to the completion of our final report, we will permanently remove all identifiers from the surveys, and we will destroy all records that link completed surveys to individual respondents.

How to Complete the Questionnaire

We estimate that this questionnaire will take approximately 25-35 minutes to complete. While completing the questionnaire, your responses will automatically be saved so you can return to the questionnaire any time before submitting it. Once completed, click the "Submit and Close" button. If you need to redo your questionnaire after submitting it, you can request a survey retake link. However, using the new link will reset the survey and all previous responses will be lost.

If you have any questions, please contact [redacted], or email GAOAcademySurvey@gao.gov. By completing this questionnaire, you will help us provide Congress with information to understand your Academy's honor and conduct systems. Thank you for your participation.

End of Block: Introduction

Start of Block: Definitions

Honor and conduct **Defining Honor and Conduct**

In this questionnaire, we will ask you questions about the honor system and conduct system.

By **honor system**, we refer to the honor code that sets the standard for moral behavior of cadets at the Academy, including that they shall not lie, steal, or cheat, nor tolerate any among them who does, and to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the code.

By **conduct system**, we refer to the Academy's conduct policy that defines acceptable cadet behavior as adherence to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), civilian laws, and Air Force and academy directives and standards and to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the code. Violations of the conduct policy may range from minor offenses, such as not adhering to uniform standards, to more serious offenses, such as drug possession.

End of Block: Definitions

Start of Block: Honor System

Honor Familiarity **Familiarity with the Honor System**

In this section, we will ask about your familiarity with the **honor system**. There is another section that asks about the conduct system. By **honor system**, we mean your Academy's honor code and the processes used to adjudicate any violations. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions.

Page Break

Q1 How familiar, if at all, are you with the contents of your Academy's honor policies?

Consider these elements: the definition of honor terms, what constitutes an honor violation, and the processes for reporting, investigating, and adjudicating a violation. *(Select one)*

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Mostly familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q2 How familiar, if at all, are you with the possible consequences of violating the honor code, such as loss of privileges? *(Select one)*

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Mostly familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q3 In which of the following ways, if any, did you learn about the Academy's honor system? (Select one per row)

	Yes (1)	No (2)
Instruction as a component of first-year orientation or basic training (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in military training (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in academic classes (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Memos or other written communication from Academy officers or staff (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
From other cadets in informal settings (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Q4 Have you ever taken any of the following actions related to the honor system? There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized. *(Select one per row)*

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know (3)
Observed a possible honor violation (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tolerated a possible honor violation (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Confronted a cadet about a possible honor violation (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reported a possible honor violation (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Investigated a possible honor violation (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Observed a Wing Honor Board, without direct involvement (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Testified as a witness in a Wing Honor Board (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participated as a board member or in other leadership position at a Wing Honor Board (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Honor Perceptions **Perceptions of the Honor System**

In this section, we will ask you about your opinions on how the honor system has been applied during your time at the Academy. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

JS X→

Q5 In your opinion, how fair, if at all, are the following items? (Select one per row)

	Not at all fair (1)	Somewhat fair (2)	Mostly fair (3)	Very fair (4)	Don't know (5)
Honor Code (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Honor Investigations (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wing Honor Boards (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Length of time an honor case takes (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Honor Probation (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The honor system as a whole (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

X→

Q6 How likely, if at all, are you to confront another cadet you observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to confront (1)
- Somewhat likely to confront (2)
- Moderately likely to confront (3)
- Very likely to confront (4)
- Don't know (5)

X→

Q7 How likely, if at all, are you to report another cadet you observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

X→

Q8 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical cadet is to confront another cadet they observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to confront (1)
- Somewhat likely to confront (2)
- Moderately likely to confront (3)
- Very likely to confront (4)
- Don't know (5)

X→

Q9 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical cadet is to report another cadet they observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

X→

Q10 How important, if at all, are the following factors in your consideration about whether or not to report another cadet for an honor violation? (Select one per row)

	Not at all important (1)	Somewhat important (2)	Very important (3)
Rank of cadet (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social status of cadet (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fear of punishment for tolerating an honor violation (11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your relationship with the cadet (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether or not you can address the violation informally (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer advice (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possible impact to another cadet's grades or career (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible violation (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible consequence (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether you observed the violation or only heard about it (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possibility of shunning from others due to reporting a violation (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your belief that almost everyone has violated the code at some point (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal experience with violating the code yourself (13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

X→

Q11 In your opinion, how frequently do you believe each of the following occurs on your campus? (Select one per row)

	Not at all frequently (1)	Somewhat frequently (2)	Moderately frequently (3)	Very frequently (4)
Lying (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stealing (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cheating (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tolerating (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Intro In the next set of questions, we will ask you about both **findings** and **consequences** resulting from honor boards. By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred at a Wing honor board. By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of Wing Honor Boards or Cadet Sanctions Recommendation Panels, such as separation or turnbacks. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

X→

Q12 In your opinion, do you think findings for the same honor offenses are applied fairly across all cadets? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred at a Wing Honor Board. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all cadets (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all cadets (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q12 = 2

X→

Q12a Why do you think findings are not applied fairly across all cadets for the same honor offenses? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred at a Wing Honor Board. *(Select all that apply)*

- Race/ethnicity of cadet (1)
- Gender of cadet (2)
- Rank of cadet (3)
- Athlete status of cadet (4)
- Social status of cadet (5)
- Different understanding of rules and regulations among Wing Honor Board members (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break

Intro As a reminder, by “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred at a Wing Honor Board. By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of Wing Honor Boards or Cadet Sanctions Recommendation Panels, such as separation or turn-backs.

X+

Q13 In your opinion, do you think consequences for the same honor offenses are applied fairly across all cadets? By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of Wing Honor Boards or Cadet Sanctions Recommendation Panels, such as separation or turn-backs. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all cadets (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all cadets (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q13 = 2

X+

Q13a Why do you think consequences are not applied fairly across all cadets for the same honor offenses? By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of Wing Honor Boards or

Cadet Sanctions Recommendation Panels, such as separation or turn-backs (*Select all that apply*)

- Race/ethnicity of cadet (1)
- Gender of cadet (2)
- Rank of cadet (3)
- Athlete status of cadet (4)
- Social status of cadet (5)
- Different understanding of rules and regulations among Wing Honor Board or Cadet Sanctions Recommendation Panel members (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break



Q14 In your opinion, what do you think is the main purpose of the honor system? There is no correct or incorrect answer to this question. (Select one)

- Develop ethical behavior (1)
- Increase peer accountability (2)
- Correct cadet behavior (3)
- Punish cadet behavior (4)
- Enhance institutional reputation (5)
- Other (please describe): (6)

- Don't know (7)

Page Break

Q15 In your opinion, how strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Select one per row)

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Somewhat agree (3)	Strongly agree (4)	No opinion (5)
Toleration is less serious than other honor offenses. (Q16_1)	<input type="radio"/>				
Loyalty among cadets is more important than abiding by the honor code. (Q16_2)	<input type="radio"/>				
Most faculty members report possible cases of academic cheating upon discovering it. (Q16_4)	<input type="radio"/>				

Page Break

Honor Experience Experience with the Honor System

In this section, we will ask about your experience with the honor system. Some of the following questions address experiences that may be sensitive or personal. Answering these questions is completely voluntary, but your responses will help us better understand your Academy's honor system. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

X+

Q16 Have you ever been accused of violating the honor code? As a reminder, your responses will be anonymized. (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I'd rather not say (3)

Display This Question:

If Q16 = 1

X+

Q16a What was the outcome of you being accused of violating the honor code? If you were accused more than once, please answer about your most recent experience. (Select one)

- I was confronted, and it did not proceed to a formal report. (1)
- I admitted to the violation and was the subject of a Cadet Sanctions Recommendation Panel. (2)
- I did not admit to the violation and was the subject of a Wing Honor Board. (3)
- Other (please describe): (4)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q16 = 1

Q16b Please describe how you felt going through the honor process after being accused of violating the honor code. If you have been through the process more than once, please speak to the most recent experience.

Page Break



Q17 Has the honor system ever been unfairly applied to you? By honor system, we refer to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the honor code.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I've never been through the honor system (3)
- Don't know (4)

Display This Question:

If Q17 = 1

Or Q17 = 4

Q17a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example of your experience with the honor system being unfairly applied to you.

Page Break



Q18 Have you ever directly witnessed the honor system be unfairly applied to another cadet? By honor system, we refer to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the honor code.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If $Q18 = 1$

Or Q18 = 3

Q18a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example where you directly witnessed the honor system being unfairly applied to another cadet.

Page Break

Q19 Comments on the Honor System

If you have any additional comments about the honor system, please provide them in the space below.

End of Block: Honor System

Start of Block: Conduct System

Conduct Familiarity Familiarity with the Conduct System

This section will focus on your awareness of the **conduct system**. There is another section that asks about the honor system. By **conduct system**, we refer to the academy's conduct policy that defines acceptable cadet behavior and to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the policy. Violations of the conduct policy may range from minor offenses, such as not adhering to uniform standards, to more serious offenses such as drug possession.

Page Break

Q20 How familiar, if at all, are you with the contents of your Academy's conduct policies and regulations? (Select one)

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Moderately familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q21 How familiar, if at all, are you with the possible consequences of violating the conduct policies and regulations? (Select one)

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Moderately familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q22 In which of the following ways, if any, did you learn about the Academy's conduct policies and regulations, such as what constitutes a conduct violation? (Select one per row)

	Yes (1)	No (2)
Instruction as a component of first-year orientation or basic training (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in military training (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in academic classes (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Memos or other written communication from Academy officers or staff (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
From other cadets in informal settings (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Q23 Have you ever taken any of the following actions related to the conduct system?

There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized. (Select one per row)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know (3)
Observed a possible conduct violation (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Confronted another cadet about a possible conduct violation (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reported to staff a possible conduct violation (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Observed a conduct adjudication or related disciplinary hearing, without direct involvement (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provided a written witness statement to a conduct board/investigating official (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Testified as a witness in a conduct adjudication, or related disciplinary hearing (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Conduct Perceptions **Perceptions of the Conduct System**

In this section we will ask about your opinions on how the conduct system has been applied during your time at the Academy. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

X→

Q24 How likely, if at all, are you to report another cadet for a minor conduct violation?
(Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

X→

Q25 How likely, if at all, are you to report another cadet for a major conduct violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break



Q26 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical cadet is to report another cadet for a minor conduct violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)



Q27 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical cadet is to report another cadet for a major conduct violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q28 How important, if at all, are the following factors in your consideration about whether or not to report another cadet for a conduct violation? (Select one per row)

	Not at all important (1)	Somewhat important (2)	Very important (3)
Rank of cadet (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social status of cadet (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your relationship with the cadet (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer advice (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possible impact to another cadet's grades or career (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible violation (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible consequence (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether you observed the violation or only heard about it (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possibility of shunning from others due to reporting a violation (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your belief that almost everyone has violated the policies at some point (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal experience with violating the policies yourself (13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break



Q29 In your opinion, what do you think is the main purpose of the conduct system?

There is no correct or incorrect answer to this question. (Select one)

- Develop ethical behavior (1)
- Increase peer accountability (2)
- Correct cadet behavior (3)
- Punish cadet behavior (4)
- Enhance institutional reputation (5)
- Other (please describe): (6)

- Don't know (7)

Page Break

Intro In the next set of questions, we will ask you about both findings and consequences resulting from conduct adjudications. By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

X→

Q30 In your opinion, do you think findings for the same conduct offenses are applied fairly across all cadets? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all cadets (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all cadets (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q30 = 2

X→

Q30a Why do you think findings for the same conduct offenses are not applied fairly across all cadets? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. *(Select all that apply)*

- Race/ethnicity of cadet (1)
- Gender of cadet (2)
- Rank of cadet (3)
- Athlete status of cadet (4)
- Social status of cadet (5)
- Different understanding of rules among authority figures (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break

Intro As a reminder, by “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations.

X+

Q31 In your opinion, do you think consequences for the same conduct offenses are applied fairly across all cadets? By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all cadets (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all cadets (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q31 = 2

X+

Q31a Why do you think consequences for the same conduct offenses are not applied fairly across all cadets? By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations. *(Select all that apply)*

- Race/ethnicity of cadet (1)
- Gender of cadet (2)
- Rank of cadet (3)
- Athlete status of cadet (4)
- Social status of cadet (5)
- Different understanding of rules among commanding officers (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break

Conduct Experience **Experience with the Conduct System**

In this section, we will ask about your experience with the conduct system. Some of the following questions address experiences that may be sensitive or personal. Answering these questions is completely voluntary, but your responses will help us better understand your Academy’s conduct system. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

X+

Q32 Have you ever been accused of violating the conduct policies and regulations? As a reminder, your responses will be anonymized. (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I'd rather not say (3)

Display This Question:

If Q32 = 1

X→

Q32a What was the outcome of you being accused of violating the conduct policies and regulations? If you were accused more than once, please answer about your most recent experience. (Select one)

- I talked with the accuser, and it did not proceed to a formal report. (1)
- I received less-punitive discipline such as counseling, corrective action, or a developmental assignment. (2)
- The violation was handled, and I received punishment at or below the squadron level. (3)
- I was investigated but it did not result in a consequence. (4)
- I was investigated and received consequences. (5)
- Other (Please describe): (6)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q32 = 1

Q32b Please describe how you felt going through the conduct process after being accused of violating the conduct policies and regulations. If you have been through the process more than once, please speak to the most recent experience.

Page Break



Q33 Has the conduct system ever been unfairly applied to you? (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I've never been through the conduct system (3)
- Don't know (4)

Display This Question:

If $Q33 = 1$

Or $Q33 = 4$

Q33a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example of your experience with the conduct system being unfairly applied to you.

Page Break

X→

Q34 Have you ever directly witnessed the conduct system be unfairly applied to another cadet? (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q34 = 1

Or Q34 = 3

Q34a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example where you directly witnessed the conduct system being unfairly applied to another cadet.

Page Break

Q35 Comments on the Conduct System

If you have any additional comments about the conduct system, please provide them in the space below.

End of Block: Conduct System

Start of Block: Survey Taker Information

Intro Survey Taker Information

We are interested in understanding how different groups of cadets may differ in their familiarity or experiences with the honor and conduct process. As a result, the next section will ask you for demographic information. As a reminder, we will be summarizing results in our report and we will anonymize the responses you provided.

Page Break

Q36 What is your class (graduating) year? (Select one)

- 2025 (1)
- 2026 (2)
- 2027 (3)

Page Break

Q37 What is your race and/or ethnicity? (Select all that apply)

- American Indian or Alaska Native (1)
- Asian (2)
- Black or African American (3)
- Hispanic/Latino (4)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
- White (6)

Page Break

X→

Q38 What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Select one)

- Female (1)
- Male (2)
- Don't know (3)
- I'd rather not say (4)

Page Break

X→

Q39 What is your gender/sexual identity? (Select one)

- Female (1)
- Male (2)
- Trans female/Trans woman (3)
- Trans male/Trans man (4)
- Gender queer/Gender non-conforming (5)
- Other (Please describe): (6)

- I'd rather not say (7)

Page Break

X→

Q40 Have you ever held any of the following roles at the Academy? (Select one per row)

Yes (1)

No (2)

Member of Honor Committee or
Squadron Honor staff (1)

Cadet command staff position
(2)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q40 = 1 [1]

Or Q40 = 2 [1]

X→

Q40a We are interested in interviewing a few cadets from your Academy to talk more about their experiences with the Academy's honor and conduct system.

Would you be interested in talking with us?

Yes, please email me. (1)

No, I am not interested. (2)

End of Block: Survey Taker Information

Start of Block: End Survey

* ⊖ X→

End Survey If you are finished responding, please click "Yes, I am finished" below and the "Submit & Close" button (you will not be able to return to the questionnaire once you hit "Submit & Close").

- Yes, I am finished. (1)
- No, I would like to continue responding. (2)

End of Block: End Survey

Coast Guard Academy Questionnaire

Start of Block: Introduction

Intro

GAO Survey of Academy Honor and Conduct Systems

Who We Are

The US Government Accountability Office (GAO) is an independent and nonpartisan research agency, and we have been tasked by Congress to review the federal service academies' honor and conduct systems.

Why We Want to Hear from You

We are conducting this survey to gather the perspectives and experiences of midshipmen and cadets enrolled in service academies. We will ask you questions about your familiarity with, perceptions of, and experiences with the Academy's honor and conduct systems. Your responses will provide valuable information to GAO as we conduct our review.

GAO pledges to maintain the anonymity of individual information and responses to this survey. We will not share individually identifiable information, such as names, collected during the course of our work outside of GAO. While the results will generally be provided in summary form in our report, individual answers may be discussed, but they will not include any information that could be used to identify individual respondents. Prior to the completion of our final report, we will permanently remove all identifiers from the surveys, and we will destroy all records that link completed surveys to individual respondents.

How to Complete the Questionnaire

We estimate that this questionnaire will take approximately 25-35 minutes to complete. While completing the questionnaire, your responses will automatically be saved so you can return to the questionnaire any time before submitting it. Once completed, click the "Submit and Close" button. If you need to redo your questionnaire after submitting it, you can request a survey retake link. However, using the new link will reset the survey and all previous responses will be lost.

If you have any questions, please contact [redacted], or email GAOAcademySurvey@gao.gov. By completing this questionnaire, you will help us provide Congress with information to understand your Academy's honor and conduct systems. Thank you for your participation.

End of Block: Introduction

Start of Block: Definitions

Honor and conduct **Defining Honor and Conduct**

In this questionnaire, we will ask you questions about the honor system and conduct system.

By **honor system**, we refer to the honor concept that sets the standard for moral behavior of cadets at the Academy, including that they shall not lie, cheat, steal, nor attempt to deceive, and to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the concept.

By **conduct system**, we refer to the Academy's conduct policy that defines acceptable cadet behavior as adherence to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), civilian laws, and Coast Guard and Academy directives and standards, and to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the code, including the recent updates to the Cadet Conduct and Discipline system. Violations of the conduct policy may range from minor violations, such as not adhering to uniform standards, to more serious violations, such as drug possession.

End of Block: Definitions

Start of Block: Honor System

Honor Familiarity **Familiarity with the Honor System**

In this section, we will ask about your familiarity with the **honor system**. There is another section that asks about the conduct system. By **honor system**, we mean your Academy's honor concept and the processes used to adjudicate any violations. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions.

Page Break

Q1 How familiar, if at all, are you with the contents of your Academy's honor policies?

Consider these elements: the definition of honor terms, what constitutes an honor violation, and the processes for reporting, investigating, and adjudicating a violation. *(Select one)*

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Mostly familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q2 How familiar, if at all, are you with the possible consequences of violating the honor concept, such as loss of privileges? *(Select one)*

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Mostly familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q3 In which of the following ways, if any, did you learn about the Academy's honor system? (Select one per row)

	Yes (1)	No (2)
Instruction as a component of first-year orientation or basic training (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in military training (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in academic classes (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Memos or other written communication from Academy officers or staff (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
From other cadets in informal settings (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Q4 Have you ever taken any of the following actions related to the honor system? There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized. *(Select one per row)*

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know (3)
Observed a possible honor violation (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tolerated a possible honor violation (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Confronted a cadet about a possible honor violation (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reported a possible honor violation (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Investigated a possible honor violation (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Testified as a witness in an honor board hearing (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participated as a board member or in other leadership position at an honor board hearing (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Honor Perceptions **Perceptions of the Honor System**

In this section, we will ask you about your opinions on how the honor system has been applied during your time at the Academy. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

JS X→

Q5 In your opinion, how fair, if at all, are the following items? (Select one per row)

	Not at all fair (1)	Somewhat fair (2)	Mostly fair (3)	Very fair (4)	Don't know (5)
Honor Concept (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Honor Investigations (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Honor Boards (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Length of time an honor case takes (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The honor system as a whole (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

X→

Q6 How likely, if at all, are you to confront another cadet you observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to confront (1)
- Somewhat likely to confront (2)
- Moderately likely to confront (3)
- Very likely to confront (4)
- Don't know (5)

X→

Q7 How likely, if at all, are you to report another cadet you observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

X→

Q8 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical cadet is to confront another cadet they observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to confront (1)
- Somewhat likely to confront (2)
- Moderately likely to confront (3)
- Very likely to confront (4)
- Don't know (5)

X→

Q9 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical cadet is to report another cadet they observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

X→

Q10 How important, if at all, are the following factors in your consideration about whether or not to report another cadet for an honor violation? (Select one per row)

	Not at all important (1)	Somewhat important (2)	Very important (3)
Rank of cadet (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social status of cadet (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fear of punishment for tolerating an honor violation (11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your relationship with the cadet (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether or not you can address the violation informally (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer advice (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possible impact to another cadet's grades or career (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible violation (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible consequence (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether you observed the violation or only heard about it (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possibility of shunning from others due to reporting a violation (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your belief that almost everyone has violated the concept at some point (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal experience with violating the concept yourself (13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break



Q11 In your opinion, how frequently do you believe each of the following occurs on your campus? (Select one per row)

	Not at all frequently (1)	Somewhat frequently (2)	Moderately frequently (3)	Very frequently (4)
Lying (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stealing (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cheating (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tolerating (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Intro In the next set of questions, we will ask you about both **findings** and **consequences** resulting from honor boards. By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of honor boards, such as separation or turn-backs. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.



Q12 In your opinion, do you think findings for the same honor offenses are applied fairly across all cadets? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all cadets (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all cadets (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q12 = 2

X+

Q12a Why do you think findings are not applied fairly across all cadets for the same honor offenses? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred. *(Select all that apply)*

- Race/ethnicity of cadet (1)
- Gender of cadet (2)
- Rank of cadet (3)
- Athlete status of cadet (4)
- Social status of cadet (5)
- Different understanding of rules and regulations among honor board members (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break

Intro As a reminder, by “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of honor boards, such as separation or turn-backs.



Q13 In your opinion, do you think consequences for the same honor offenses are applied fairly across all cadets? By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of honor boards such as separation or turn-backs. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all cadets (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all cadets (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q13 = 2

X+

Q13a Why do you think consequences are not applied fairly across all cadets for the same honor offenses? By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of honor boards, such as separation or turn-backs (*Select all that apply*)

- Race/ethnicity of cadet (1)
- Gender of cadet (2)
- Rank of cadet (3)
- Athlete status of cadet (4)
- Social status of cadet (5)
- Different understanding of rules and regulations among honor board members (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break



Q14 In your opinion, what do you think is the main purpose of the honor system? There is no correct or incorrect answer to this question. (Select one)

- Develop ethical behavior (1)
- Increase peer accountability (2)
- Correct cadet behavior (3)
- Punish cadet behavior (4)
- Enhance institutional reputation (5)
- Other (please describe): (6)

- Don't know (7)

Page Break

Q15 In your opinion, how strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Select one per row)

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Somewhat agree (3)	Strongly agree (4)	No opinion (5)
Toleration is less serious than other honor offenses. (Q15_1)	<input type="radio"/>				
Loyalty among cadets is more important than abiding by the honor concept. (Q15_2)	<input type="radio"/>				
Most faculty members report possible cases of academic cheating upon discovering it. (Q15_3)	<input type="radio"/>				

Page Break

Honor Experience Experience with the Honor System

In this section, we will ask about your experience with the honor system. Some of the following questions address experiences that may be sensitive or personal. Answering these questions is completely voluntary, but your responses will help us better understand your Academy's honor system. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

X+

Q16 Have you ever been accused of violating the honor concept? As a reminder, your responses will be anonymized. (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I'd rather not say (3)

Display This Question:

If Q16 = 1

X+

Q16a What was the outcome of you being accused of violating the honor code? If you were accused more than once, please answer about your most recent experience. (Select one)

- I was investigated, but it did not result in an honor board. (1)
- I did not admit to the violation and was the subject of an honor board hearing. (2)
- I admitted to the violation and was the subject of a class I/major conduct hearing. (3)
- Other (please describe): (4)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q16 = 1

Q16b Please describe how you felt going through the honor process after being accused of violating the honor concept. If you have been through the process more than once, please speak to the most recent experience.

Page Break

X→

Q17 Has the honor system ever been unfairly applied to you? By honor system, we refer to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the honor concept.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I've never been through the honor system (3)
- Don't know (4)

Display This Question:

If Q17 = 1

Or Q17 = 4

Q17a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example of your experience with the honor system being unfairly applied to you.

Page Break



Q18 Have you ever directly witnessed the honor system be unfairly applied to another cadet? By honor system, we refer to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the honor concept.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If $Q18 = 1$

Or Q18 = 3

Q18a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example where you directly witnessed the honor system being unfairly applied to another cadet.

Page Break

Q19 Comments on the Honor System

If you have any additional comments about the honor system, please provide them in the space below.

End of Block: Honor System

Start of Block: Conduct System

Conduct Familiarity Familiarity with the Conduct System

This section will focus on your awareness of the **conduct system**. There is another section that asks about the honor system. By **conduct system**, we refer to the Academy's conduct policy that defines acceptable cadet behavior and to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the policy, including the recent changes to the Cadet Conduct and Discipline System. Violations of the conduct policy may range from minor violations, such as not adhering to uniform standards, to more serious violations, such as drug possession.

Page Break

X→

Q20 How familiar, if at all, are you with the contents of your Academy's old conduct policies and regulations? (Select one)

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Moderately familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

X→

Q21 How familiar, if at all, are you with the contents of your Academy's new conduct policies and regulations? (Select one)

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Moderately familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q22 Have you ever taken any of the following actions related to the conduct system?

Consider both the old and new conduct system for this question. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions. (Select one per row)

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know (3)
Observed a possible conduct violation (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Confronted another cadet about a possible conduct violation (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reported to chain of command or staff a possible conduct violation (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Observed a conduct adjudication or related disciplinary hearing, without direct involvement (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provided a written witness statement to a conduct board/investigating official (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Testified as a witness in a conduct adjudication or related disciplinary hearing (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Conduct Perceptions **Perceptions of the Conduct System**

In this section, we will ask about your opinions on how the conduct system has been applied during your time at the Academy. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

X→

Q23 How likely, if at all, are you to report another cadet for a minor (formerly class II) conduct violation? Consider the new conduct system for this question. (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

X→

Q24 How likely, if at all, are you to report another cadet for a major (formerly class I) conduct violation? Consider the new conduct system for this question. (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break



Q25 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical cadet is to report another cadet for a minor (formerly class II) conduct violation? Consider the new conduct system for this question. (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)



Q26 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical cadet is to report another cadet for a major (formerly class I) conduct violation? Consider the new conduct system for this question. (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

X→

Q27 How important, if at all, are the following factors in your consideration about whether or not to report another cadet for a conduct violation? Consider the new conduct system for this question. (Select one per row)

	Not at all important (1)	Somewhat important (2)	Very important (3)
Rank of cadet (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social status of cadet (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your relationship with the cadet (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer advice (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possible impact to another cadet's grades or career (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible violation (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible consequence (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether you observed the violation or only heard about it (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possibility of shunning from others due to reporting a violation (10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your belief that almost everyone has violated the policies at some point (12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal experience with violating the policies yourself (13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (14)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Q28 In your opinion, what do you think is the main purpose of the conduct system?
Consider the new conduct system for this question. There is no correct or incorrect answer to this question. (Select one)

- Develop ethical behavior (1)
- Increase peer accountability (2)
- Correct cadet behavior (3)
- Punish cadet behavior (4)
- Enhance institutional reputation (5)
- Other (please describe): (6)

- Don't know (7)

Intro In the next set of questions, we will ask you about both **findings** and **consequences** resulting from conduct adjudications. By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

X→

Q29 In your opinion, do you think findings for the same conduct offenses are applied fairly across all cadets? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. Consider both the old and new conduct system for this question. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all cadets (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all cadets (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q29 = 2

X→

Q29a Why do you think findings for the same conduct offenses are not applied fairly across all cadets? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct

offense occurred. Consider both the old and new conduct system for this question. (Select all that apply)

- Race/ethnicity of cadet (1)
- Gender of cadet (2)
- Rank of cadet (3)
- Athlete status of cadet (4)
- Social status of cadet (5)
- Different understanding of rules among authority figures (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break

Intro As a reminder, by “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations.

Q30 In your opinion, do you think consequences for the same conduct offenses are applied fairly across all cadets? By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of

conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations. Consider both the old and new conduct system for this question. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all cadets (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all cadets (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q30 = 2

X→

Q30a Why do you think consequences for the same conduct offenses are not applied fairly across all cadets? By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct

offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations. Consider both the old and new conduct system for this question. *(Select all that apply)*

- Race/ethnicity of cadet (1)
- Gender of cadet (2)
- Rank of cadet (3)
- Athlete status of cadet (4)
- Social status of cadet (5)
- Different understanding of rules among commanding officers (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break

Conduct Experience **Experience with the Conduct System**

In this section, we will ask about your experience with the conduct system, under both the old and new conduct system. Some of the following questions address experiences that may be sensitive or personal. Answering these questions is completely voluntary, but your responses will help us better understand your Academy's conduct system. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

X→

Q31 Have you ever been accused of violating either the old or the new conduct policies and regulations? As a reminder, your responses will be anonymized. (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I'd rather not say (3)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q31 = 1

X→

Q31a What was the outcome of you being accused of violating the conduct policies and regulations? If you were accused more than once, please answer about your most recent experience. (Select one)

- I received less-punitive discipline, such as counseling, corrective action, or developmental assignment. (1)
- The violation was handled, and I received punishment, such as demerits. (2)
- I was investigated, but it did not result in a major conduct hearing, or other related administrative hearing. (3)
- I was the subject of a major conduct hearing or other related administrative hearing. (4)
- Other (Please describe): (5)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If $Q31 = 1$

Q31b Please describe how you felt going through the conduct process after being accused of violating the conduct policies and regulations. If you have been through the process more than once, please speak to the most recent experience.

Page Break



Q32 Has the conduct system ever been unfairly applied to you? Consider both the old and new conduct system for this question. (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I've never been through the conduct system (3)
- Don't know (4)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If $Q32 = 1$

Or $Q32 = 4$

Q32a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example of your experience with the conduct system being unfairly applied to you.

Page Break



Q33 Have you ever directly witnessed the conduct system be unfairly applied to another cadet? Consider both the old and new conduct system for this question. (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If $Q33 = 1$

Or Q33 = 3

Q33a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example where you directly witnessed the conduct system being unfairly applied to another cadet.

Page Break

Q34 Comments on the Conduct System

If you have any additional comments about the conduct system, please provide them in the space below. Consider both the old and new conduct system.

End of Block: Conduct System

Start of Block: Survey Taker Information

Intro Survey Taker Information

We are interested in understanding how different groups of cadets may differ in their familiarity or experiences with the honor and conduct process. As a result, the next section will ask you for demographic information. As a reminder, we will be summarizing results in our report, and we will anonymize responses you provided.

Page Break



Q35 What is your class (graduating) year? (Select one)

- 2025 (1)
- 2026 (2)
- 2027 (3)

Page Break

Q36 What is your race and/or ethnicity? (Select all that apply)

- American Indian or Alaska Native (1)
- Asian (2)
- Black or African American (3)
- Hispanic/Latino (4)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
- White (6)

Page Break

Q37 What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Select one)

- Female (1)
- Male (2)
- Don't know (3)
- I'd rather not say (4)

Page Break

X→

Q38 What is your gender/sexual identity? (Select one)

- Female (1)
- Male (2)
- Trans female/Trans woman (3)
- Trans male/Trans man (4)
- Gender queer/Gender non-conforming (5)
- Other (Please describe): (6)

- I'd rather not say (7)

Page Break

X→

Q39 Have you ever held any of the following roles at the Academy? (Select one per row)

Yes (1)

No (2)

Member of the Honor Board (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Company, Battalion, or Regimental leadership position (e.g., Company Command staff, Battalion Command staff, Regimental Command staff, Company Guidon, Company Master-At-Arms) (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q39 = 1 [1]

Or Q39 = 2 [1]

X→

Q39a We are interested in interviewing a few cadets from your Academy to talk more about their experiences with the Academy's honor and conduct system.

Would you be interested in talking with us?

- Yes, please email me. (1)
- No, I am not interested. (2)

End of Block: Survey Taker Information

Start of Block: End Survey

* ⊖ X→

End Survey If you are finished responding, please click "Yes, I am finished" below and the "Submit & Close" button (you will not be able to return to the questionnaire once you hit "Submit & Close").

- Yes, I am finished. (1)
- No, I would like to continue responding. (2)

End of Block: End Survey

Merchant Marine Academy Questionnaire

Start of Block: Introduction

Intro

GAO Survey of Academy Honor and Conduct Systems

Who We Are

The US Government Accountability Office (GAO) is an independent and nonpartisan research agency, and we have been tasked by Congress to review the federal service academies' honor and conduct systems.

Why We Want to Hear from You

We are conducting this survey to gather the perspectives and experiences of midshipmen and cadets enrolled in service academies. We will ask you questions about your familiarity with, perceptions of, and experiences with the Academy's honor and conduct systems. Your responses will provide valuable information to GAO as we conduct our review.

GAO pledges to maintain the anonymity of individual information and responses to this survey. We will not share individually identifiable information, such as names, collected during the course of our work outside of GAO. While the results will generally be provided in summary form in our report, individual answers may be discussed, but they will not include any information that could be used to identify individual respondents. Prior to the completion of our final report, we will permanently remove all identifiers from the surveys, and we will destroy all records that link completed surveys to individual respondents.

How to Complete the Questionnaire

We estimate that this questionnaire will take approximately 25-35 minutes to complete. While completing the questionnaire, your responses will automatically be saved so you can return to the questionnaire any time before submitting it. Once completed, click the "Submit and Close" button. If you need to redo your questionnaire after submitting it, you can request a survey retake link. However, using the new link will reset the survey and all previous responses will be lost.

If you have any questions, please contact [redacted], or email GAOAcademySurvey@gao.gov. By completing this questionnaire, you will help us provide Congress with information to understand your Academy's honor and conduct systems. Thank you for your participation.

End of Block: Introduction

Start of Block: Definitions

Honor and conduct **Defining Honor and Conduct**

In this questionnaire, we will ask you questions about the honor system and conduct system.

By **honor system**, we refer to the honor code and honor concept that set the standard for moral behavior of midshipmen at the Academy, including that they shall not lie, cheat, or steal, and to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the code.

By **conduct system**, we refer to the Academy's conduct policy that defines acceptable midshipman behavior as adherence to law and service Academy directives and standards and to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the policy. Violations of the conduct policy may range from minor offenses, such as not adhering to uniform standards, to more serious offenses, such as drug possession.

End of Block: Definitions

Start of Block: Honor System

Honor Familiarity **Familiarity with the Honor System**

In this section, we will ask about your familiarity with the **honor system**. There is another section that asks about the conduct system. By **honor system**, we mean your Academy's honor code, honor concept, and the processes used to adjudicate any violations. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions.

Page Break

Q1 How familiar, if at all, are you with the contents of your Academy's honor policies?

Consider these elements: the definition of honor terms, what constitutes an honor violation and the processes for reporting, investigating, and adjudicating a violation. (Select one)

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Mostly familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q2 How familiar, if at all, are you with the possible consequences of violating the honor code, such as loss of privileges? (Select one)

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Mostly familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q3 In which of the following ways, if any, did you learn about the Academy's honor system? (Select one per row)

	Yes (1)	No (2)
Instruction as a component of first-year orientation or basic training (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in military training (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in academic classes (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Memos or other written communication from Academy officers or staff (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
From other midshipmen in informal settings (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Q4 Have you ever taken any of the following actions related to the honor system? There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized. *(Select one per row)*

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know (3)
Observed a possible honor violation (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tolerated a possible honor violation (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Confronted a midshipman about a possible honor violation (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reported a possible honor violation (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Investigated a possible honor violation (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Observed an honor board hearing, without direct involvement (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Testified as a witness in an honor board hearing (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participated as a board member or in other leadership position at an honor board hearing (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Honor Perceptions **Perceptions of the Honor System**

In this section, we will ask you about your opinions on how the honor system has been applied during your time at the Academy. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

JS

Q5 In your opinion, how fair, if at all, are the following items? (Select one per row)

	Not at all fair (1)	Somewhat fair (2)	Mostly fair (3)	Very fair (4)	Don't know (5)
Honor Code (Q5_1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Honor Investigations (Q5_2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Honor Boards (Q5_3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Length of time an honor case takes (Q5_4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Honor Probation (Q5_5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The honor system as a whole (Q5_6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Q6 How likely, if at all, are you to confront another midshipman you observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to confront (1)
- Somewhat likely to confront (2)
- Moderately likely to confront (3)
- Very likely to confront (4)
- Don't know (5)

Q7 How likely, if at all, are you to report another midshipman you observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q8 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical midshipman is to confront another midshipman they observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to confront (1)
- Somewhat likely to confront (2)
- Moderately likely to confront (3)
- Very likely to confront (4)
- Don't know (5)

Q9 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical midshipman is to report another midshipman they observed commit an honor violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q10 How important, if at all, are the following factors in your consideration about whether or not to report another midshipman for an honor violation? (Select one per row)

	Not at all important (1)	Somewhat important (2)	Very important (3)
Rank of midshipman (Q10_1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social status of midshipman (Q10_2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fear of punishment for tolerating an honor violation (Q10_3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your relationship with the midshipman (Q10_4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether or not you can address the violation informally (Q10_5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer advice (Q10_6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possible impact to another midshipman's grades or career (Q10_7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible violation (Q10_8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible consequence (Q10_9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether you observed the violation or only heard about it (Q10_10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possibility of shunning from others due to reporting a violation (Q10_11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your belief that almost everyone has violated the code at some point (Q10_12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal experience with violating the code yourself (Q10_13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please
describe): (Q10_14)

Page Break

Q11 In your opinion, how frequently do you believe each of the following occurs on your campus? (Select one per row)

	Not at all frequently (1)	Somewhat frequently (2)	Moderately frequently (3)	Very frequently (4)
Lying (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stealing (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cheating (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tolerating (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Intro In the next set of questions, we will ask you about both **findings** and **consequences** resulting from honor boards. By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of honor boards, such as separation or turn-backs. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Q12 In your opinion, do you think findings for the same honor offenses are applied fairly across all midshipmen? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all midshipmen (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all midshipmen (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q12 = 2

X+

Q12a Why do you think findings are not applied fairly across all midshipmen for the same honor offenses? By "findings," we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred. *(Select all that apply)*

- Race/ethnicity of midshipman (1)
- Gender of midshipman (2)
- Rank of midshipman (3)
- Athlete status of midshipman (4)
- Social status of midshipman (5)
- Different understanding of rules and regulations among honor board members (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break

Intro As a reminder, by “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether an honor offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of honor boards, such as separation or turn-backs.

Q13 In your opinion, do you think consequences for the same honor offenses are applied fairly across all midshipmen? By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of honor boards, such as separation or turn-backs. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all midshipmen (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all midshipmen (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q13 = 2

X→

Q13a Why do you think consequences are not applied fairly across all midshipmen for the same honor offenses? By “consequences,” we mean the outcomes of honor boards, such as separation or turn-backs (*Select all that apply*)

- Race/ethnicity of midshipman (1)
- Gender of midshipman (2)
- Rank of midshipman (3)
- Athlete status of midshipman (4)
- Social status of midshipman (5)
- Different understanding of rules and regulations among honor board members (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break



Q14 In your opinion, what do you think is the main purpose of the honor system? There is no correct or incorrect answer to this question. (Select one)

- Develop ethical behavior (1)
- Increase peer accountability (2)
- Correct midshipman behavior (3)
- Punish midshipman behavior (4)
- Enhance institutional reputation (5)
- Other (please describe): (6)

- Don't know (7)

Page Break

Q15 In your opinion, how strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Select one per row)

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Somewhat agree (3)	Strongly agree (4)	No opinion (5)
Toleration is less serious than other honor offenses. (Q16_1)	<input type="radio"/>				
Loyalty among midshipmen is more important than abiding by the honor code. (Q16_2)	<input type="radio"/>				
Most faculty members report possible cases of academic cheating upon discovering it. (Q16_3)	<input type="radio"/>				

Page Break

Honor Experience Experience with the Honor System

In this section, we will ask about your experience with the honor system. Some of the following questions address experiences that may be sensitive or personal. Answering these questions is completely voluntary, but your responses will help us better understand your Academy's honor system. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Q16 Have you ever been accused of violating the honor code? As a reminder, your responses will be anonymized. (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I'd rather not say (3)

Display This Question:

If Q16 = 1



Q16a What was the outcome of you being accused of violating the honor code? If you were accused more than once, please answer about your most recent experience. (Select one)

- I was confronted, and it did not proceed to a formal report. (1)
- I self-reported my violation of the honor code and underwent honor remediation without a hearing. (2)
- I admitted to violating the honor code and was the subject of an honor board hearing. (3)
- I did not admit to violating the honor code, and the Honor Staff declined to investigate the allegation. (4)
- I did not admit to violating the honor code and was the subject of an honor board hearing. (5)
- Other (please describe): (6)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If $Q16 = 1$

Q16b Please describe how you felt going through the honor process after being accused of violating the honor code. If you have been through the process more than once, please speak to the most recent experience.

Page Break

Q17 Has the honor system ever been unfairly applied to you? By honor system, we refer to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the honor code.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I've never been through the honor system (3)
- Don't know (4)

Display This Question:

If Q17 = 1

Or Q17 = 4

Q17a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example of your experience with the honor system being unfairly applied to you.

Page Break

X→

Q18 Have you ever directly witnessed the honor system be unfairly applied to another midshipman? By honor system, we refer to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the honor code.

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q18 = 1

Or Q18 = 3

Q18a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example where you directly witnessed the honor system being unfairly applied to another midshipman.

Page Break

Q19 Comments on the Honor System

If you have any additional comments about the honor system, please provide them in the space below.

End of Block: Honor System

Start of Block: Conduct System

Conduct Familiarity **Familiarity with the Conduct System**

This section will focus on your awareness of the **conduct system**. There is another section that asks about the honor system. By **conduct system**, we refer to the Academy's conduct policy that defines acceptable midshipman behavior as adherence to law and service Academy directives and standards and to the associated guidance and procedures that enforce the policy.

Violations of the conduct policy may range from minor offenses, such as not adhering to uniform standards, to more serious offenses, such as drug possession.

Page Break

Q20 How familiar, if at all, are you with the contents of your Academy's conduct policies and regulations? (Select one)

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Moderately familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q21 How familiar, if at all, are you with the possible consequences of violating the conduct policies and regulations? (Select one)

- Not at all familiar (1)
- Somewhat familiar (2)
- Moderately familiar (3)
- Very familiar (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q22 In which of the following ways, if any, did you learn about the Academy's conduct policies and regulations, such as what constitutes a conduct violation? (Select one per row)

	Yes (1)	No (2)
Instruction as a component of first-year orientation or basic training (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in military training (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instruction in academic classes (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Memos or other written communication from Academy officers or staff (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
From other midshipmen in informal settings (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Q23 Have you ever taken any of the following actions related to the conduct system?

There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized. *(Select one per row)*

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Don't know (3)
Observed a possible conduct violation (Q23_1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Confronted another midshipman about a possible conduct violation (Q23_2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reported to staff a possible conduct violation (Q23_3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provided a written witness statement to a conduct board/ investigating official/Executive Review Board or Superintendent's Hearing (Q23_4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Testified as a witness in a conduct adjudication, or related disciplinary hearing (Q23_5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Conduct Perceptions *Perceptions of the Conduct System*

In this section, we will ask about your opinions on how the conduct system has been applied during your time at the Academy. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

Q24 How likely, if at all, are you to report another midshipman for a minor conduct violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Q25 How likely, if at all, are you to report another midshipman for a major conduct violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q26 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical midshipman is to report another midshipman for a minor conduct violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Q27 How likely, if at all, do you think a typical midshipman is to report another midshipman for a major conduct violation? (Select one)

- Not at all likely to report (1)
- Somewhat likely to report (2)
- Moderately likely to report (3)
- Very likely to report (4)
- Don't know (5)

Page Break

Q28 How important, if at all, are the following factors in your consideration about whether or not to report another midshipman for a conduct violation? (Select one per row)

	Not at all important (1)	Somewhat important (2)	Very important (3)
Rank of midshipman (Q28_1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Social status of midshipman (Q28_2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your relationship with the midshipman (Q28_3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer advice (Q28_4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possible impact to another midshipman's grades or career (Q28_5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible violation (Q28_6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Severity of the possible consequence (Q28_7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether you observed the violation or only heard about it (Q28_8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Possibility of shunning from others due to reporting a violation (Q28_9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Your belief that almost everyone has violated the policies at some point (Q28_10)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Personal experience with violating the policies yourself (Q28_11)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please describe): (Q28_12)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break



Q29 In your opinion, what do you think is the main purpose of the conduct system?

There is no correct or incorrect answer to this question. (Select one)

- Develop ethical behavior (1)
- Increase peer accountability (2)
- Correct midshipman behavior (3)
- Punish midshipman behavior (4)
- Enhance institutional reputation (5)
- Other (please describe): (6)

- Don't know (7)

Page Break

Intro In the next set of questions, we will ask you about both **findings** and **consequences** resulting from conduct adjudications. By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

Q30 In your opinion, do you think findings for the same conduct offenses are applied fairly across all midshipmen? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all midshipmen (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all midshipmen (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q30 = 2

X+

Q30a Why do you think findings for the same conduct offenses are not applied fairly across all midshipmen? By “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. *(Select all that apply)*

- Race/ethnicity of midshipman (1)
- Gender of midshipman (2)
- Rank of midshipman (3)
- Athlete status of midshipman (4)
- Social status of midshipman (5)
- Different understanding of rules among authority figures (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break

Intro As a reminder, by “findings,” we mean the determination made as to whether a conduct offense occurred. By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations.

Q31 In your opinion, do you think consequences for the same conduct offenses are applied fairly across all midshipmen? By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations. (Select one)

- Yes, applied fairly across all midshipmen (1)
- No, not applied fairly across all midshipmen (2)
- Don't know (3)

Display This Question:

If Q31 = 2

X+

Q31a Why do you think consequences are not applied fairly across all midshipmen for the same conduct offenses? By “consequences,” we mean the possible outcomes of conduct offenses, such as loss of privileges, turn-backs, or separations. *(Select all that apply)*

- Race/ethnicity of midshipman (1)
- Gender of midshipman (2)
- Rank of midshipman (3)
- Athlete status of midshipman (4)
- Social status of midshipman (5)
- Different understanding of rules among authority figures (6)
- Preexisting relationship between accused and authority (7)
- Other (please describe): (8)

- None of the above (9)

Page Break

Conduct Experience **Experience with the Conduct System**

In this section, we will ask about your experience with the conduct system. Some of the following questions address experiences that may be sensitive or personal. Answering these questions is completely voluntary, but your responses will help us better understand your Academy’s conduct system. There are no correct or incorrect answers to the following questions, and your responses will be anonymized.

Page Break

Q32 Have you ever been accused of violating the conduct policies and regulations? As a reminder, your responses will be anonymized. (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I'd rather not say (3)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q32 = 1

X→

Q32a What was the outcome of you being accused of violating the conduct policies and regulations? If you were accused more than once, please answer about your most recent experience. (Select one)

- I talked with the accuser, and it did not proceed to a formal report. (1)
- I received less-punitive discipline such as counseling, corrective action, or a developmental assignment. (2)
- The violation was handled, and I received punishment such as demerits. (3)
- I admitted guilt and went to Mast, or other related disciplinary hearing (4)
- I did not admit guilt and went to Mast, or other related disciplinary hearing (5)
- Other (Please describe): (6)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q32 = 1

Q32b Please describe how you felt going through the conduct process after being accused of violating the conduct policies and regulations. If you have been through the process more than once, please speak to the most recent experience.

Page Break

Q33 Has the conduct system ever been unfairly applied to you? (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- I've never been through the conduct system (3)
- Don't know (4)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If $Q33 = 1$

Or Q33 = 4

Q33a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example of your experience with the conduct system being unfairly applied to you.

Page Break



Q34 Have you ever directly witnessed the conduct system be unfairly applied to another midshipman? (Select one)

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Don't know (3)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If $Q34 = 1$

Or Q34 = 3

Q34a In a few sentences, please describe the most recent example where you directly witnessed the conduct system being unfairly applied to another midshipman.

Page Break

Q35 Comments on the Conduct System

If you have any additional comments about the conduct system, please provide them in the space below.

End of Block: Conduct System

Start of Block: Survey Taker Information

Intro Survey Taker Information

We are interested in understanding how different groups of midshipmen may differ in their familiarity or experiences with the honor and conduct process. As a result, the next section will ask you for demographic information. As a reminder, we will be summarizing results in our report and will anonymize the responses you provided.

Page Break

Q36 What is your class (graduating) year? (Select one)

- 2025 (1)
- 2026 (2)
- 2027 (3)

Page Break

Q37 What is your race and/or ethnicity? (Select all that apply)

- American Indian or Alaska Native (1)
- Asian (2)
- Black or African American (3)
- Hispanic/Latino (4)
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (5)
- White (6)

Page Break

Q38 What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate? (Select one)

- Female (1)
- Male (2)
- Don't know (3)
- I'd rather not say (4)

Page Break

Q39 What is your gender/sexual identity? (Select one)

- Female (1)
- Male (2)
- Trans female/Trans woman (3)
- Trans male/Trans man (4)
- Gender queer/Gender non-conforming (5)
- Other (Please describe): (6)

- I'd rather not say (7)

Page Break

Q40 Have you ever held any of the following roles at the Academy? (Select one per row)

	Yes (1)	No (2)
Member of Honor Committee or Company Honor staff (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Midshipman officer position (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Display This Question:

If Q40 = 1 [1]

Or Q40 = 2 [1]

Q40a We are interested in interviewing a few midshipman from your Academy to talk more about their experiences with the Academy's honor and conduct system.

Would you be interested in talking with us?

- Yes, please email me. (1)
- No, I am not interested. (2)

End of Block: Survey Taker Information

Start of Block: End Survey



End Survey If you are finished responding, please click "Yes, I am finished" below and the "Submit & Close" button (you will not be able to return to the questionnaire once you hit "Submit & Close").

- Yes, I am finished. (1)
- No, I would like to continue responding. (2)

End of Block: End Survey

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