Standards of Excellence Honor Code

Spelman College is a world class institution and America’s oldest historically black college for women. For more than a century Spelman College has educated, nurtured and empowered women citizens of the world focused on global change, leadership and service. Spelman women are socially and politically conscious, educated to be aware of themselves and their environment. A Spelman education requires the highest standards of excellence and inspires passionate, goal-oriented, responsible, respectful, compassionate, gifted, humane, and socially conscious women to take action to positively impact the world. Students stand on a firm foundation of history, traditions, high expectations and personal and academic achievement, and demonstrate great pride in the alumnae who have achieved personal and professional success.

As a Spelman College woman, I make a promise to be a person of civility, commitment, and consistency as evidenced in my attitude, behavior and academic achievement on and off campus, including abroad. I honor Spelman College as a community that nurtures spirit, scholarship and service. I show genuine civility and demonstrate tolerance and respect for other cultures. I will uphold and model the Spelman College Standards of Excellence Honor Code. Honor is defined as honesty, fairness and integrity in one’s beliefs and actions. I will practice honesty, fairness, and integrity as a way of life. I commit to honor myself, my Spelman sisters, and Spelman College in the following manner:

❖ Civility ❖

• I contribute to a civil environment of respect and encourage inclusiveness in a manner that models free inquiry, critical thinking and intellectual engagement.
• I am honest. I will do my own academic work. I will not lie, cheat, steal, plagiarize, forge or falsify any information.
• I am civil. I will not fight, instigate, or perpetuate discord within the community or on social networking sites.

❖ Commitment ❖

• I take responsibility and understand that I am accountable for my behavior, personal growth and development of character.
• I practice respect and integrity at all times as I contribute to a culture and community of excellence.
• I honor my commitments. I attend classes and activities to which I commit on time as outlined by my instructors and/or administrators, and I deliver quality outcomes in a reliable, timely and positive manner.

❖ Consistency ❖

• I commit to engage in respectful relationships with friends, acquaintances, roommates, classmates, faculty, administrators, staff, alumnae, guests and those outside the Spelman community on a daily basis.
• I engage in actions that affirm our sisterhood as a culture of support on a daily basis.
• I commit daily to executing my responsibilities and all that I do with unwavering dedication to excellence.

Every Spelman woman will be challenged to exceed her own highest personal and intellectual expectations and goals. I understand that the Honor Code is fundamental to creating a quality of student life that encourages the personal growth and development of Spelman women. I also acknowledge that I am on an educational journey in the process of becoming a Spelman woman who is uniquely me. Therefore, I commit to step out of my comfort zone in search of my true identity with the support of the Spelman sisterhood—students, faculty, staff, alumnae, and the many donors and philanthropists who support Spelman College. I have entered into Spelman College to learn, and I will commit to graduating from Spelman College prepared to lead and serve the global community. I am a woman of Spelman: intelligent, beautiful, intrepid, confident and socially conscious. I am Spelman College, and Spelman College is me. I will fully embrace, respect and uphold the Spelman College Standards of Excellence Honor Code.