

Academic Standards Code

Scope of Authority:

The Academic Standards Code states George Mason University's standards for academic integrity and the process for adjudicating claims that an individual has violated those standards. The Academic Standards Office facilitates the process by which claims that an individual has violated the Academic Standards Code are adjudicated in accordance with this document. The expectations regarding academic standards apply to all individuals at Mason who engage in academic or research related activities. Cases received after a student's degree has been conferred may result in degree revocation.

George Mason University has an office to address issues related to research misconduct. Those incidents are investigated through the Office of Research Integrity and Assurance.

As it states in University Policy 4007, "Allegations of academic misconduct against graduate students are governed solely by the university's Code, except for 1) research activities as defined above regardless of sponsorship; and 2) master's theses and doctoral dissertations, both of which are governed by this policy. Allegations of academic misconduct against students are governed solely by the university academic standards, except for sponsored research activities which are governed by this policy." For more information, contact the Office of Research Integrity and Assurance via their website at [Office of Research integrity and Assurance](#).

Academic Standards Statement:

Academic Standards exist to promote authentic scholarship, support the institution's goal of maintaining high standards of academic excellence, and encourage continued ethical behavior of faculty and students to cultivate an educational community which values integrity and produces graduates who carry this commitment forward into professional practice.

Violations and Sanctions:

Violations

Unauthorized Assistance

Unauthorized assistance in an academic context means using, accessing, or providing assistance to others when such assistance is not permitted per the university, course, or assignment instructions/policy. Unauthorized assistance may also include submitting academic work that was created, in whole or part, using unauthorized material. Certain departments may include requirements that go beyond what is mentioned, including a

prohibition of sharing files, and the requirement to keep work secure. Examples of unauthorized assistance include but are not limited to:

- Benefitting or attempting to benefit from unauthorized assistance
- Providing unauthorized assistance
- Unauthorized use of artificial intelligence software, generative or otherwise
- Submitting work that was done, in part or whole, by someone else
- Compensating someone else to do work and/or academic outsourcing
- Making an unauthorized record of (photo, screenshot, download) and/or posting (such as on a public website or in group messenger apps) exams or academic content
- Submitting work as one's own that was obtained from unauthorized websites (Including Quizlet, Chegg, Course Hero, etc.)

Fabrication

Fabrication in an academic context refers to providing information known to be false as an attempt to bypass classroom expectations or gain an unfair advantage in completing academic work. Examples of fabrication include but are not limited to:

- Providing a false excuse for missing a test, assignment, or class
- Fabricating or providing false sources, data, information, documents, and/or official correspondence. This may include, but is not limited to, referencing material that does not appear in the indicated source
- Providing false or altered documents in response to an Academic Standards violation

Plagiarism

Plagiarism in an academic context refers to using other individuals' ideas or words without appropriate attribution or credit. It also includes reusing one's own work that has already been submitted for a class or published without permission from the current instructor and/or without proper citation. Examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to:

- Submitting another's work as your own, either in whole or in part
- Misrepresenting authorship (may include leaving author names off a document or giving authorship credit that is not warranted)
- Failure to attempt to cite sources using required citation standards, including both in-text/in-presentation citations and full references lists
- Using portions of one's old work for new assignments without advanced permission from the current course instructor and appropriate attribution. (self-plagiarism)

Plagiarism does not include mistakes in the format of a citation if the student has

indicated the materials quoted or relied upon and the source of the materials.

Sanctions

Mason uses an institutional sanctioning matrix to assign grade-related sanctions, educational sanctions, and potential institutional separation depending on the violation level. The sanctioning matrix is in the appendix of this document. The sanctioning matrix is the definitive document outlining what sanctions, including grade sanctions, will occur if a student is found in violation of the institution's Academic Standards and will not be deviated from.

Please note, a failing grade or inability to continue as a student of George Mason University due to a grade-related sanction is not considered a punitive measure. Students are expected to consider potential outcomes of Academic Standards violations when submitting academic work.

Involved Parties Responsibilities:

Faculty

Reporting

All suspected violations in any semester must be reported to the Academic Standards office by the deadline for that semester's grades or within two (2) months from initial discovery of alleged misconduct. Extensions of this deadline may be granted by the Academic Standards Office on a case-by-case basis. Professors who require an extension on reporting due to material collection must contact the Office directly to request an extension.

It is the professor's responsibility to provide all material necessary to support the referral and allegation. The Academic Standards Office does not investigate cases and does not gather materials to support referrals. If the Office receives materials which are not sufficient to understand or identify the nature of the alleged violation, the professor will be notified and given one opportunity to amend their submission with additional information. Faculty must submit the requested materials within five (5) business days of the Academic Standards Office's request for additional information. If additional information is not provided to support the allegation, the referral may be dismissed without a hearing.

The Academic Standards Office reserves the right to dismiss referrals without a hearing when (1) the materials provided do not clearly identify the alleged violation or individual alleged to have committed the violation, (2) the allegations, even if true, would not constitute a violation, (3) there is insufficient material to support the allegation, or (4) the referral is not made in a timely manner.

Grade Updates

The professor is responsible for updating the student's grade after the case is complete, including any relevant appeal period. The professor will be notified after the resolution of the case regarding the grade assigned according to the university sanctioning matrix. If a case is not resolved by the time grades are due, the professor must assign a grade of HC into Banner. Upon resolution of the case, the professor must work with their department and the Registrar's Office to complete the necessary paperwork to update the student's grade.

Educational Requirements

While cases are being adjudicated, faculty are expected to continue to teach referred students as they do other students and assign earned grades to any submitted assessments/assignments. Should the student be involved in another alleged violation, the faculty member should refer the student through the referral portal on the Academic Standards website.

Student

Students must abide by the academic standards set forth in this document and by the institution. This includes adhering to course specific policies regarding scholarship and academic work. Students who are found in violation of Academic Standards are subject to sanctions by the University.

Students who are referred are subject to the following honesty statement throughout the entire case resolution process, including any appeal process:

George Mason University students pledge to conduct themselves in accordance with the Academic Standards the institution upholds. It is expected that all information presented in this process is true and correct. George Mason University students who willfully and knowingly provide false information, or who admit to a violation of a university policy unrelated to Academic Standards, will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

Any student referred for violating Academic Standards is not allowed to drop or withdraw from the course until the case is resolved. If a student drops or withdraws from the course in question, they will be re-enrolled and will be charged tuition and fees for the course. If a student is found in violation, they cannot withdraw from or drop the course in question. Students may contest any allegation or grade outcome attributed to a violation of Academic Standards that is issued without a finding of responsibility in this process. Students must represent themselves during academic standards investigations – another party may not speak on their behalf. Exceptions are made for sign language interpreters.

Witness

Referred students may submit witness statements as supporting documentation. Witness statements must be sent directly from the witness to the Academic Standards Office email account. Character witnesses will not be considered when determining responsibility or sanction(s). Upon receipt of the witness statements, the Academic Standards Office will distribute the statements to the referred student and referring party.

Advisor

A referred student may have one (1) advisor present during any meeting or hearing related to the Academic Standards process, provided the student has submitted the appropriate Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (F.E.R.P.A.) waivers that name the additional party. The advisor does not represent or speak on the student's behalf and cannot address the Committee or hearing officer. The advisor can communicate with the student through the process if such presence is not disruptive to the hearing and does not unreasonably lengthen the hearing. If the advisor violates the rules and procedures for proceedings, such action will result in the immediate removal of the advisor from the current and any future proceedings.

Review Entities

Academic Standards Committee Membership

Limited to Mason faculty, staff, and students. Student members must:

- Be in good academic and conduct standing
- Complete all required training modules and an Annual Behavioral Agreement
- Undergraduate student members must maintain a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 2.75
- Graduate student members must maintain a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 3.00.

Faculty members, administrative faculty members, and classified staff members must:

- Have at least a master's degree from an accredited program or comparable professional experience.
- Have at least 1 semester of teaching experience at the collegiate level or comparable professional experience.
- Instructors cannot participate in resolving cases they refer
- Complete all required training modules and an Annual Behavioral Agreement.

The Academic Standards Committee

The Committee reviews all submitted case information and determines the outcome regarding the student's alleged violation using a clear and convincing standard. Each Panel consists of three (3) Academic Standards Committee Members selected by the Office of Academic Standards. The three individuals must not have any conflicts of

interest. Any party may notify the Academic Standards Office if they believe a Panel member in their case has a conflict of interest. The Academic Standards Office shall evaluate the claim and determine whether to replace the member.

In cases where a graduate student has been referred, at least one member of the Panel must be either a graduate student, a classified staff member, an administrative faculty member, or a faculty member.

If a full Panel cannot be created for a hearing, students have the option of proceeding with the hearing with only two (2) Panel members by signing a waiver with the understanding that the decision of such a panel would have to be unanimous for the student to be found in violation. If a student chooses to proceed with their hearing with two (2) members, they waive the opportunity to appeal based on the number of panel members reviewing their case.

In cases where a full panel is not available to hear the case and the result of the case may impact a student's graduation, tuition payment, or other extraordinary circumstance, an administrative hearing officer may be assigned to review the case. Students will be given the option to proceed with an administrative hearing officer or wait until a full panel is available to review the case.

Administrative Hearing Officer

The administrative hearing officer is a staff member in the Academic Standards Office or designee assigned to review a case and determine the outcome using the clear and convincing evidence standard. When a case is designated for Administrative Hearing Officer Review, the officer will contact the referring party and use the student's academic schedule to schedule the meeting between all parties.

Appeal Panel

The appeal Panel reviews a referred party's submitted appeal and determines if the referred party has met the chosen grounds for appeal and provided evidence to substantiate those grounds. They receive the referred party's written appeal documents, information from the Academic Standards Office (as needed), and the material submitted in the original case adjudication to determine the appeal outcome. The appeal Panel consists of three (3) Academic Standards Committee members who did not review the student's initial case. A representative from the Academic Standards Office is also present to provide procedural information but does not have decision-making authority for the appeal.

Process Outline:

Referral Notice

When a report is submitted that alleges an individual violated Academic Standards, the Academic Standards office staff will review the referral and determine, based on the

level designation, number of offenses, and sanctioning matrix, the appropriate level and recommended sanction(s) associated with that level. If a student is referred multiple times in the same class, this will elevate the level designation. The referred party will receive a referral notice to their Mason email address. Referred parties can access all submitted information related to their case by following the directions in their referral notice.

Information included in the referral notice:

- A link to the full Academic Standards document
- Alleged violation(s)
- The level of the alleged violation and the corresponding recommended sanctions
- The semester in which the alleged violation took place.
- Instructions for scheduling a pre-hearing meeting with staff
- Link to the Guardian Software System where student can find the following:
 - The Academic Standards Prehearing Resolution form
 - Case files submitted by the referring party in the case

In cases where retaliation is a legitimate safety concern, or where the information submitted is sensitive, case files may be redacted or presented in a way designed to prevent identification or circulation of sensitive information.

Prehearing Meeting

During this meeting, students will review their resolution options, case material provided by the referring party and decide on how they wish to proceed. A pre-hearing is optional for students who are not facing suspension or permanent dismissal.

Students facing suspension, or permanent dismissal are required to schedule a pre-hearing meeting with a staff member within seven (7) calendar days of the date of the referral notice.

Students who fail to schedule and/or attend a required pre-hearing will have a hold placed on their student account that will remain until they complete their required pre-hearing or their case is resolved via a scheduled hearing

Academic Standards Prehearing Resolution Form

The Academic Standards Prehearing Resolution Form is sent alongside the referral notice for students not facing suspension or permanent dismissal and must be completed by the date and time listed in the referral notice.

If a student does not submit their prehearing resolution form by the deadline listed in their notice, the case will be forwarded for review in absentia. Information on this form includes:

- Plea Type:
 - In Violation
 - Not in Violation
- Explanation of Review Options:
 - Administrative Hearing Officer Review
 - Academic Standards Review

If a student does not understand any aspect of their case, they are encouraged to schedule a Prehearing Meeting with a staff member from the Academic Standards Office before completing this form.

Review Proceedings:

Plea Types

If a student enters a plea of 'in violation' the recommended sanctions, will be assigned and there is no opportunity to appeal.

If a student enters a plea of 'not in violation' the case will be reviewed by an Academic Standards Panel or by an Administrative Hearing Officer

Review Types

- Administrative Hearing Officer Review is only for students who have been alleged to have committed a Level 1 violation and are not facing suspension, or permanent dismissal.
- Written Review is only for students who have been alleged to have committed a Level 2 violation and are not facing suspension or permanent dismissal.
- Academic Standards Panel Hearing are only for students facing suspension or permanent dismissal.

The Academic Standards Office cannot compel any party to be present during the Administrative Officer Review or Hearing. If a party does not attend the review or hearing, the decision on the case will be rendered in their absence. The decision on the case will be rendered via email within five (5) business days of the scheduled conference, unless more time is deemed necessary.

Administrative Hearing Officer Review

The referred student(s) and referring party do not appear in-person before an Administrative Hearing Officer. All documents and statements shared by the referred student(s) will be provided to the referring party, and all documents and statements shared by the referring party will be provided to the referred student(s). Only documents received by the applicable deadlines will be shared, and failure to submit by those deadlines will result in the officer determining an outcome based solely on the information available at the time of review.

The process for the parties to provide information for an Administrative Hearing Officer Review

is as follows:

- Within seven (7) calendar days of receiving notice that their Pre-Hearing Resolution form has been processed, the referred student(s) may submit a written statement and any documentation they feel supports their case.
 - Failure to submit a written statement by the deadline will result in the case being moved to the officer in absentia.
- Within three (3) calendar days of the referring party receiving the referred student(s) statements and documents, the referring party may submit a written response and provide any additional supporting documentation.
- Within two (2) calendar days of the referred student(s) receiving the referring party's final response, the referred student(s) may submit a reply, including any rebuttal documents or witness statements.

The Administrative Hearing Officer assigned to the case will then review the materials submitted. If the Administrative Hearing Officer may reach out to both parties if additional information or questioning would be helpful in making a determination.

The hearing officer will make a determination of either 'In Violation' or 'Not in Violation.' Referred student(s) are found in violation if clear and convincing information of a violation based on the facts presented is present. If the referred student(s) is found in violation, the officer will assign the grade-related and educational sanctions as indicated on the sanctioning matrix. If the referred student(s) is found not in violation, no sanctions are assigned, and the professor will be instructed to grade the assignment accordingly.

Written Review

The student and faculty member do not appear in-person before an Academic Standards Panel. All documents and statements shared by the referred party will be provided to the referring party, and all documents and statements shared by the referring party will be provided to the referred party. Only documents received by the applicable deadlines will be shared, and failure to submit by those deadlines will result in the Panel deciding based solely on the information available at the time of review.

The process for the parties to provide information for a Written Review is as follows:

- Within seven (7) calendar days of receiving notice that their Pre-Hearing Resolution form has been processed, the referred party may submit a written statement and any documentation they feel supports their case.
- Within three (3) calendar days of the referring party receiving the referred party's statements and documents, the referring party may submit a written response and provide any additional supporting documentation.
- Within two (2) calendar days of the referred party receiving the referring party's final response, the referred party may submit a reply, including any

rebuttal documents or witness statements.

The Academic Standards Panel assigned to the case will then review the materials submitted

If the Panel can make a determination based on the written materials, it will make a determination of either 'In Violation' or 'Not in Violation'. Referred parties are found in violation if two of the three Panel members find clear and convincing information of a violation based on the facts presented. If the referred party is found in violation, the Panel will assign the grade-related and educational sanctions as indicated on the sanctioning matrix. If the referred party is found not in violation, no sanctions are assigned, and the professor will be instructed to grade the assignment accordingly.

Academic Standards Panel Hearing

The referred party, referring faculty member, and any advisors or witnesses appear live via videoconference before an Academic Standards Panel. During the Hearing, the referred party will present all the information to be considered by the Panel when determining an outcome for the case. The Academic Standards Office will schedule a Hearing and email the referred party and referring party a notice with the date, time, and link for the hearing. Only academic schedules are considered when scheduling Hearings. If the referred party has extenuating circumstances that interfere with the scheduled meeting time, they must reach out to the Academic Standards Office to request a reschedule.

Voluntary commitments will not result in a hearing being rescheduled. The Office will decide whether the request to reschedule will be granted. The hearing will be scheduled at least seven (7) calendar days from the date of the notice, and the date/time will not be changed once set, absent an emergency.

The process for the parties to provide information for an Academic Standards Panel Hearing is as follows:

- No later than seven (7) calendar days before the scheduled hearing, both parties must submit all documents and witness statements they wish to present at the hearing to the Academic Standards Office, which will share the materials with the other party.
- If the referred party plans to bring an advisor, they must submit the name of the advisor that will accompany them at the hearing no later than 24 hours in advance of the hearing
- No later than two (2) business days before the hearing both parties may submit rebuttal documents and/or names of any rebuttal witnesses along with statements from the rebuttal witnesses. A rebuttal document or witness must provide information that responds to or refutes information contained in a previously submitted document or witness statement. A party offering rebuttal

submission must explain what the document or witness will rebut. Witness statements must be sent directly by the witness to our office at asos@gmu.edu and include the case number in the subject line.

- All written materials submitted by the parties will be provided to the Academic Standards Panel for the matter.
- At the hearing, the referring and referred party are each allotted up to ten (10) minutes to make their opening statement. After this, there is questioning of the referring party by the Panel and the referred student. Then there is questioning of the referred student by the Panel and the referring party.
- Following the questioning of the parties, any witnesses will be questioned. Witnesses will not testify during hearings, but witnesses must be present at the hearing so the party not offering the witness, and the Panel may ask questions. Should a witness not attend a hearing, the Panel cannot consider the witness's statement. This requirement may be waived by the Panel if the witness is offered by the referred party and the Panel determines that it is appropriate to consider the statement without the ability of the Panel and referring party to question the witness.
- Subject to the requirements of the preceding paragraph, if the Panel determines a witness' statement contains relevant information, the Panel shall consider the witness statement as the witness' testimony. The Panel may decide not to accept witness testimony or additional evidence if it determines that a witness's testimony or additional evidence is not relevant.
- After any witness questioning, the referring and referred party shall have up to ten (10) minutes each to make a closing statement.

The Academic Standards Panel will consider the information provided at the hearing and make a decision as to responsibility for the alleged violations. Referred parties are found in violation if two of the three Panel members find clear and convincing information of a violation based on the facts presented. If the referred party is found in violation, the Panel will use the institutional sanctioning matrix to assign the grade-related and educational sanctions as indicated. If the referred party is found not in violation, no sanctions are assigned, and the professor will be instructed to grade the assignment accordingly.

Notification of Parties

Following the decision of the Administrative Hearing Officer or Academic Standards Panel, the Academic Standards Office will send a decision letter via Mason email to the referred party and referring party notifying them of the decision and the sanctions to be imposed, as applicable.

Appeals

Only the referred student may appeal. Appeal submissions must be submitted in writing

within seven (7) calendar days of the date of the decision letter. The decision letter will list the deadline for the appeal. All appeal requests must be submitted according to the procedures outlined in the decision letter. No statement exchange process occurs during an appeal; thus, the referred student must include all information they would like reviewed in their appeal during the initial submission of appeal documentation. Appeals are not available to students who plead in violation and accept responsibility through the pre-hearing resolution process.

Referred parties can appeal the decision of the Panel based on one or more of the following grounds(s):

- New Information Not Reasonably Available at the Time of the Original Hearing
 - This does not include an individual failing to submit a pre-hearing form, failing to attend or failing to provide a statement for their case who wants to present evidence they would have presented had they appeared or participated in the case resolution process.
- Substantive Error or Procedural Irregularity
 - This is an allegation that the Academic Standards process was not adhered to, the result of which had a material effect on the outcome, not an allegation of a violation of academic department policy. It is also not an allegation that the referring party did not notify the student ahead of submitting a referral.
- Severity of Sanction
 - Available only if permanent dismissal is assigned as a sanction outcome. This appeal ground is unavailable if a student is academically dismissed or terminated from Mason due to a grade-related outcome of an Academic Standards case.
- Level of Violation
 - The student may appeal if they believe the level assignment in their case was not appropriately applied (the student believes the level assignment should be lower than it was)
 - The student must provide an explanation and supporting documentation proving that a different level should have been assigned.

Upon submission, appeals will be reviewed by a representative in the Academic Standards Office. Appeals submitted with an incomplete form, appeals that do not meet the outlined criteria for an appeal, or do not follow the instructions stated in the outcome letter will not be accepted or reviewed by an Appeal Panel. A referred party may resubmit the appeal if they can correct the errors within the appeal's original deadline window. All other appeals will be sent to an Appeal Panel for review.

The Appeal Panel will determine if the referred student has met the grounds for appeal and has provided evidence to substantiate those grounds. The Appeal Panel may do one of the following:

- Remand the case for a new hearing with guidance for the new committee to consider;
- Modify the findings/outcome
- Affirm the original decision;
 - A decision to affirm the original decision is final and no further appeals shall be permitted.

Records Keeping

A referral related to a violation of academic standards is part of a student's educational record and is subject to guidelines put forth by the Library of Virginia General Schedule No. GS-111 and laws and statutes put forth by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Educational records are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (F.E.R.P.A.). As such, only the student has the right to access them. A student may sign a waiver allowing access to a third party for a specified time. Without a waiver, Academic Standards does not share information with anyone who does not have an educational need to know.

The records of any referred party found to have not violated academic standards or whose case is dismissed are not reportable.

Resolutions that result in altered grades and/or educational sanctions do not have a transcript notation. However, a resolution that results in a suspension or permanent dismissal will be noted on the student's transcript. A transcript notation will be made if a student withdraws from the university while under investigation for academic dishonesty. Suspension notations are removed from the transcript upon the suspension completion.

On occasion, a student may apply for a graduate program, internship, or job that requires a background check or records check. Information protected by F.E.R.P.A. is not shared without a signed waiver from the student.

Record retention schedules adhere to all federal, state, and institutional regulations and cannot be amended or altered by the Academic Standards Office or George Mason University.

Appendix

Level Definitions

Level 1 Violations

Level 1 violations are defined as incidents that are not considered egregious as defined below. These violations tend to be lower level. A referral will be sanctioned according to the Level 1 Sanction matrix if all the following conditions are met:

- The violation is not considered egregious.
- The individual has no previous record with the university of violating academic standards or a former academic integrity violation.
- The student is either a
 - An undergraduate with fewer than 59 credits or less than one year of coursework at Mason OR
 - A non-Doctoral (e.g., JD, PhD, EdD, etc.) graduate student in their first semester of study

Level 2 Violations

Level 2 violations are defined as being of a more serious nature and merit a more severe institutional response. A referral will be sanctioned according to the Level 2 sanctions if at least one of the following conditions is met:

- The violation is **egregious, as determined by the Academic Standards Office**.
Examples of egregious violations include
 - A substantial portion of the assignment was copied, plagiarized, and/or cheated on
 - Fabricated evidence (e.g., submitted edited screenshots as evidence for a grade adjustment, fake doctor's notes, internship updates, impersonation, fabricated citations)
 - Fabricated project data
 - Financial compensation in exchange for academic work (e.g., contract cheating)
 - Failure to include a co-author on a manuscript submitted for presentation or publication
 - Multiple separate violations related to the same event (e.g., fabricated data with plagiarism, usage of Artificial Intelligence in addition to plagiarism)
 - The violation had an impact on individuals that were not involved in committing the offense, such as a collaborative project
 - Violations involving elements of professional credentialing
- The individual has a previous record of violating academic standards or academic integrity.
- The student has sufficient experience within the academic environment that a violation would be considered more serious.
 - Undergraduates that have been at Mason for at least a year and have more than 59 credits of completed coursework

- Graduate students beyond their 1st semester of Graduate study
- Any violation committed by a Doctoral or other post graduate (e.g., PhD, JD, EdD) student

Academic and Educational Sanctions

Violations of Academic Standards are sanctioned according to a common matrix. Sanctions include both educational and administrative components. Student violations of Academic Standards are sanctioned according to following matrix:

Finding	Sanction
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0% on the assessment and an additional letter grade reduction in the final course grade • University Integrity Educational Interventions (*) <i>(determined by the Academic Standards Office)</i>
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure of relevant Course or Assessment (comprehensive exams, dissertation, thesis, etc.) • University Integrity Educational Intervention (*)

** Education Interventions may include online learning modules, visits to the writing center, or other programs to assist the student in understanding and remediating the violation.*

Suspension and Dismissal

In some cases, violations of Academic Standards rise to the level that merits a pause or removal from studies. Suspension or Permanent Dismissal decisions are based on the program level of the student, the number of previous offenses, and/or the severity of the offense. Examples of violations that can lead to suspension or permanent dismissal on the first offense include contract cheating, dishonesty on credentialing exams, improper use of restricted lab facilities, and other high-level violations. Graduate Students can be suspended or permanently dismissed from the institution. If a student is found in violation, the outcomes are adjudicated through the matrix below:

REMOVAL SANCTIONS-UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

	Suspension	Permanent Dismissal
First Offense	Possible	Possible
Second Offense	Automatic (1 semester)	Possible
Third Offense	Automatic (1 full academic year)	Possible
Fourth Offense	Not Applicable	Automatic

REMOVAL SANCTIONS-GRADUATE STUDENTS

	Suspension	Permanent Dismissal
First Offense	Possible	Possible
Second Offense	Automatic (1 semester)	Possible
Third Offense	Not Applicable	Automatic