Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support
University of South Carolina

Causerie
Fall 2014 | Responding to academic misconduct

370 incidents reported last academic year
In the 2013 - 14 academic year, the Office of Academic Integrity reviewed 370 cases of suspected academic misconduct. The incidents were reported by faculty from 10 colleges and schools and a number of other units.

Students found responsible for academic misconduct
In 2013 - 14, more than one-third of students accused of and found responsible for academic misconduct were seniors.

- 85 seniors
- 51 juniors
- 50 sophomores
- 34 freshmen
- 27 graduate students
- 1 pharmacy student
- 0 law students
- 0 medical students

Most common sanctions
To determine sanctions, academic integrity staff meet with a college liaison. Last academic year, the most common were:

- conduct probation
- academic integrity workshop
- written warning
- X on transcript
- no contact order
- suspension
- expulsion
- additional assignments: research paper, essay or letter

Although violations of the Honor Code occur throughout the year, the peak times are around high-volume testing periods, such as midterms and finals.

Among faculty surveyed during the 2013 - 14 academic year, 95% agreed that the outcome of their cases were appropriate based on the nature of the reported incidents.

www.sa.sc.edu
The University of South Carolina is an equal opportunity institution. SALAS 140919
Handling academic misconduct

A faculty member who suspects a student of academic misconduct should file an incident report at sc.edu/academicintegrity, contact the student to discuss the violation then determine and implement any academic penalty. In the meantime, the Office of Academic Integrity will begin their review process.

The academic integrity process

Staff will review the incident report and all supplemental materials and create a case. Individuals involved in the case, including the alleged violator and any witnesses, will be invited to meet with staff. During this meeting individuals will be given the opportunity to respond to the incident report. Staff will contact the dean (or designated liaison) from the college in which the incident occurred to determine whether it is more likely than not that a violation of the Honor Code has occurred.

Findings

If the student is found not responsible, the case is closed. The faculty member will receive notification of this outcome via email.

If the student is found responsible, sanctions will be determined by academic integrity staff and the dean (or designated liaison).

Students may choose to accept the findings and sanctions or choose to move to a College Committee Hearing, the formal hearing process.

The faculty member will be notified by email of the student’s decision and case outcome.

For more information, visit sc.edu/academicintegrity.

MORE

Faculty can do

- Be familiar with the Honor Code, and act on suspected violations.
- Include the Honor Code and Carolinian Creed in your syllabus.
- Articulate potential consequences for violations.
- Set expectations for academic integrity in all aspects of the course, including guidelines for group work.
- Remind students of your expectations when making assignments and be clear about which resources are permitted.
- Change tests and exams from semester to semester.