



**DIVISION OF
STUDENT AFFAIRS**
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TO: University of Maryland Faculty and Staff

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SUBJECT: Report on Academic Integrity

As the University prepares for a new year of student engagement, learning, and discovery, the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) would like to share information gathered over the past year regarding academic integrity on campus. The report on academic integrity provides a brief overview of the academic dishonesty caseload, charges, and dispositions for the 2016-2017 academic year. Additionally, we provide a summary of Student Honor Council activities.

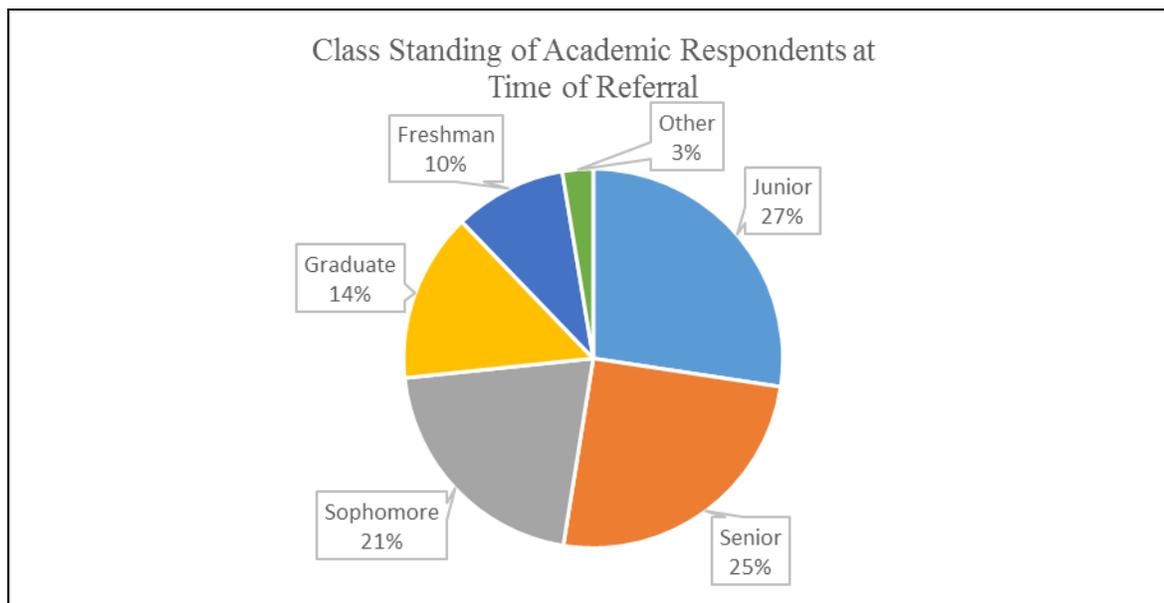
The Office of Student Conduct received 567 new referrals during the 2016-2017 academic year. As a point of reference, there were 700 cases reported during 2015-2016, representing a 19% decrease in one year. This is still though, the second highest number of referrals the office has ever received.

Charges

Cheating and plagiarism continued to be the most prevalent acts of academic misconduct. Please note that students may be charged with more than one violation when circumstances apply. We have also seen an increase in the number of fabrication (falsification or invention of information) cases over the past few years (14 two years ago and 28 last year).

Violation	Number of Students
1(a)-Cheating	330 (42%)
1(b)-Fabrication	42 (5%)
1(c)-Facilitation	107 (14%)
1(d)-Plagiarism	310 (39%)

As you can see in the chart below, of the 567 new cases, 27% were juniors, 25% had senior standing, 21% were sophomores, and 14% were graduate students. Only 10% were freshman. Therefore, we recommend that those teaching upper level courses reinforce academic integrity in their classes; as the importance of that specific course may increase for the student, so may their rationalization to excel in the course at whatever cost. It is also important to reemphasize the significance of academic integrity throughout the semester, as opposed to just at the start of the term.



Resolutions

Students accused of academic dishonesty are typically offered three options to resolve the allegation: (1) Informal Resolution - admit responsibility and accept the sanction presented to them by OSC; (2) Disciplinary Conference – contest the charge or penalty before a staff member; or (3) Honor Review – contest either the charges or the sanction before an Honor Board comprised of 3 students and 2 faculty/staff members. Below is a chart breaking down case resolutions.

Resolution Type	Number of Cases
Informal Resolution	362
Disciplinary Conference	29
Honor Review	65

The percentage of students found responsible for or who admitted violating the *Code of Academic Integrity* remains high at 80%.

Sanctions

The sanctions imposed by the Office of Student Conduct affect the student's grade in the course as well as offer some level of education relating to the behavior. In addition to academic penalties, a student may be suspended or expelled. This year we imposed a variety of sanctions such as the grade of "XF" (failure in the course due to academic dishonesty), failure in the course, a zero on the assignment, completing a reflection paper on decision making and ethics in the professional field, and the academic integrity seminar.

Educational Sanctions	Total
Academic Integrity Seminar	175
Academic Integrity Tutorial	9
Community Service	1
Ethical Dev. Seminar Modules	3
Letter of Apology	1
Paper-Honest Work	2
Reflection Paper	30
Reflection: Decision Making and Ethics in Your Field	173
Reflection: Values and AI Resources	35
Research Paper	1
Writing Center Visits	22

Administrative Sanctions	Total
Expulsion	4
Suspension	13
Suspension Withheld	63
“XF” in the Course	145
“F” in the Course	21
Letter Grade Reduction in the Course	56
Zero on the Assignment/Exam	254

Sanctions are intended to educate students on the effects of their behavior and invoke change in the future decision-making. To that end we have created new reflection-based sanctions focused on values exploration and resource comprehension.

Referring Majors

The Office of Student Conduct collects information on how many referrals we receive from each college. As you may expect those colleges referring the most students were the colleges with the most students; Computer, Math and Natural Sciences (29%), Arts and Humanities (16%), and Engineering (15%). Should you want to see information regarding your college, please contact us and we will share that information with you as well as discuss strategies for reducing academic dishonesty that may be occurring in your classes.

The most common majors of students referred this past year were Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, and Letters and Sciences. This is identical to last year. The Honor Council conducted 52 Honor Reviews last year. Of those Honor Reviews, the most frequent stemmed from Computer Science classes (12), Engineering classes (7) and Chemistry classes (6).

Faculty and Staff Involvement

We currently have 67 faculty and staff members who have volunteered to serve on Honor Boards and we thank them for their contributions. We welcome additional faculty and staff members who would like to volunteer. We especially encourage faculty and staff from the computer science, natural science, and engineering fields to participate as Honor Board members to help address the cases involving those fields and bring an increase of knowledge and expertise in understanding to the Honor Boards. Please encourage those students you think worthy to apply for the University Student Judiciary when applications become available in September. Our USJ will also be coordinating different opportunities to engage the campus community.

Conclusion

Remind your students of the importance of academic integrity not only at the beginning of the term but also throughout the semester. Academic integrity must be a year-round priority, and it begins with your interactions with students. We serve as a resource supporting the academic mission of the University to help instill these values, and look forward to collaborating with you on these efforts. Our collaboration is essential in order to meet this challenge. You can find suggestions on how to promote academic integrity in your classroom on our [website](#). Please continue utilizing the Honor Pledge on assignments as a reminder to

students that their academic work is important and should be done with pride. Other resources on how to instill a sense of academic integrity in your courses can be provided by the Office of Undergraduate Studies thanks to their Faculty Fellows program. Please look for information regarding Integrity Week coming up later this year.

Thank you for taking the time to review this important information. Our goal is to partner with staff and faculty in our shared pursuit of promoting academic integrity on campus. We will continue to share information with you periodically throughout the academic year. Remember to report any suspected cases of academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Conduct. There is a link on our website for this necessity. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

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