

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to the educational process and serves to uphold the educational mission of the University. Therefore, all members of the University community have a responsibility for maintaining high standards of honesty and ethical practice with regards to their academic endeavors. Students should consult with their instructor if they are not sure what may constitute a violation of the Academic Integrity policy. The full policy can be found in Article III. 1. of *The Student Code of Conduct*.

Although instructors are responsible for taking all reasonable precautions to limit the possibility of students violating the Academic Integrity policy, students share in this responsibility and should report any suspected violations to the instructor.

After the instructor has identified a possible violation of the policy, they must notify the student within 48 hours in writing, via university email, of the allegations and invite the student to participate in an academic integrity conference. The instructor and student may hold the conference without written notification. This academic integrity conference shall occur within five university working days of the written notification to the student.

If an instructor concludes that the student is responsible for a violation of the Academic Integrity policy, they may impose a sanction, including the following:

- official warning
- lower the grade on the exam, paper, or assignment in question
- lower the student's final grade for the course in question
- request additional action from the Academic Grievance Committee via a hearing

A complete description of the Academic Integrity process is detailed in Article V. of *The Student Code of Conduct*. However, it should be noted that a student can:

- accept the charge and sanction(s) offered by the instructor, which is acknowledged by signing the Academic Integrity form
- accept the charge, but decline the sanction(s) offered by the instructor; this will then move the case before the Academic Grievance Committee for a hearing
- decline the charge and the sanction(s) offered by the instructor; this will then move the case before the Academic Grievance Committee for a hearing

Regardless of whether the student chooses to sign the Academic Integrity form, any case in which the student may face removal from their academic program or college, or University suspension or expulsion, requires a hearing before the Academic Grievance Committee to ensure due process for the student. A representative from the Office of Student Conduct must be present at all such hearings to serve in an advisory capacity.

In situations wherein the student already has a prior recorded violation of the Academic Integrity policy, an additional violation of the policy will require referral to the Office of Student Conduct for possible additional charges.

The Student Code of Conduct (<https://cms.ysu.edu/administrative-offices/student-conduct/student-code-conduct/>) is available online. A printed copy can be found in the annual Penguin Planner.