What is Academic Dishonesty?

Academic dishonesty can fall under any of the following three categories:

1. **Cheating**:
   Use, dependence upon, or possession or provision of any unauthorized documents or assistance in class or homework, or taking quizzes, tests, or examinations.

2. **Plagiarism**:
   i. Use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without fully and properly crediting the author with footnotes, citations or bibliographical reference
   ii. Unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials
   iii. Unacknowledged use of original work/material that has been produced through collaboration with others without release in writing from collaborators.

3. **Sabotage**:
   Includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized interference with, modification of, or destruction of the work or intellectual property of another member of the University community.

For more information on the student standard of conduct relative to the University System’s Collected Rules and Regulations, see page 30 of the University’s Student Academic Regulations Policy at: http://registrar.mst.edu/academicregs/

- **Hearing procedures rules and regulations of the University**: http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/departments/gc/rules/programs/200/020.shtml

Discipline for academic dishonesty follows the collected Rule 200.020.

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How Academic Dishonesty is Addressed

The Academic Decision

In all cases of academic dishonesty, the faculty member makes the academic assessment as to the student’s grade on that work and in that course, based upon the academic standards communicated to students in the course syllabus, catalogs, handbooks and similar references. The student will receive the grade his or her work has merited, which may include a failing grade for the work submitted if the student’s work has failed to meet the academic standards for that work; similarly, the student may receive a failing grade for the course if the student’s work in the course has failed to meet the academic standards of the course.

The Disciplinary Process

The faculty member also reports any alleged academic dishonesty to the Office of Academic Support at 105 Norwood Hall. The VPAS investigates and represents the University in any student conduct case against a student charged with academic dishonesty. As part of the investigation, the VPAS will typically interview the student and the faculty member/instructor, and any others deemed necessary, including the department chair. All information received will be documented and reviewed.

If the VPAS decides to move forward with disciplinary action against the student, he/she may first attempt an informal disposition with the student. If the student rejects the informal disposition or if the VPAS decides to refer the case immediately without offering an informal disposition, the case is forwarded to the Student Conduct Committee for a formal hearing.

The Informal Disposition

The VPAS will:

- Based upon the investigation, determine an appropriate sanction to propose to the student.
- Arrange a meeting with the student to inform them of his/her rights and options, and to review the details of the allegation, the results of the investigation, and the proposed sanction(s). The student will have the opportunity to review the allegations and make a statement on his/her behalf.
- Provide the student with 7 days in which to either accept or reject the informal disposition. If the student does not do so, the University may deem the absence of an acceptance or rejection to be an acceptance of the determination.

Sanctions

Sanctions may be imposed upon any student found to have violated the Student Conduct Code; more than one of the sanctions may be imposed for any single violation.

Possible sanctions include:

- **Probation**: A written reprimand for a designated period of time, including the probability of more severe sanctions if other instances of Academic Dishonesty occur or are discovered.
- **Loss of Privileges**: for a designated period of time.
- **Discretionary Sanctions**: Work assignments, service to the University, or other related discretionary assignments.
- **University Dismissal**: for misconduct apart from academic requirements for an unspecified length of time.
- **University Suspension**: for a definite period of time, after which the student is eligible to return. Conditions for readmission may be specified.
- **University Expulsion**: Permanent separation of the student from the University.

If the student accepts the sanction(s), the VPAS informs the faculty member and any others determined by the Registrar as having an Academic Need to Know. If the student rejects the proposed sanction, the case moves to a formal hearing before the Student Conduct Committee.

Formal Disciplinary Hearing

If the student appeals the informal disposition, the VPAS shall initiate formal proceedings by arranging with the Chair to call a meeting of the Student Conduct Committee and by giving written notice to the student by certified mail or personal delivery of the date, time and place of the alleged violation of the Student Conduct Code and the date, time and place of the hearing before the Committee.

At the hearing:

- VPAS shall make opening remarks and testify to any facts the investigation has revealed, and present any other University evidence, including witnesses, documents or reports.
- The student may question witnesses or examine evidence at the conclusion of the University’s presentation.
- The student may make a statement, present witnesses and/or other evidence.
- The VPAS may question the student or witnesses.
- The Student Conduct Committee may challenge evidence or question the student or witnesses at any time.

After the hearing:

- The Student Conduct Committee will make their findings and determination of sanctions in executive session and report them to the student and the VPAS.
- If the sanction is less than expulsion, dismissal or suspension, the student may submit a written petition to the Chancellor or Designee within 5 calendar days of receiving the committee determination. The Chancellor or designee may grant or refuse the right of review. If refused, the Student Conduct Committee’s action is final. If granted, the action may be remanded for further proceedings.
- When a student is expelled, dismissed, or suspended from the University, the student has 10 days in which to submit a written appeal to the Chancellor or Designee. The appeal is final unless it is to remand the matter for further proceedings.