

SUBJECT: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Academic Integrity Policy for Graduate Students dated October 7, 1994, is adopted.

Academic Integrity Policy for Graduate Students

1. Because academic integrity is a cornerstone of the university's commitment to the principles of free inquiry, graduate students are responsible for learning and upholding professional standards of research, writing, assessment, and ethics in their areas of study. In the academic community the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. Written or other work which a student submits must be the product of his/her own efforts and must be consistent with appropriate standards of professional ethics. Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism, cheating and other forms of dishonest or unethical behavior is prohibited.
2. In cases involving academic dishonesty in a specific course, determination of the grade and of the student's status in the course are left solely to the discretion of the instructor. Students wishing to dispute a grade should follow the university's Grade Grievance Policy, stated elsewhere in the College of Graduate Studies bulletin.

The balance of this policy concerns the right of the academic department to assign sanctions in response to a student's academically dishonest or unethical behavior, and the right of the student to appeal departmental sanctions. These policies do not alter those stated in Step 2 above.

3. In cases where an instructor or supervisor judges a student culpable for academic dishonesty or professionally unethical behavior, the instructor or supervisor should report the incident to the chairperson of the department in which the student's program is housed.
4. Departments will follow their internal procedures for responding to academic dishonesty and unethical behavior, which may occur in conjunction with a specific course or in the program in general.
5. If the department determines that a sanction is warranted and the student accepts the department's sanction, the matter is closed. If the student wishes to appeal, the procedures of an appeal board apply as follows.
6. The student may appeal only the question of culpability.

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7. A standing committee known as the appeal board will be appointed annually by the graduate dean. The group will include three graduate faculty members and two graduate students. One of the faculty members will be designated by the graduate dean to serve as a voting chair. When the student appealing is from an appeal board member's department or in other cases where conflict of interest may exist, a member will be temporarily replaced by an alternate to be appointed by the dean.
8. A departmental advocate appointed by the graduate dean will assemble and present the evidence used by the department in making its decision and make this evidence available to the appeal board. If there is an involved faculty member who is not the departmental advocate, then every effort should be made for him or her to be present at the hearing to answer questions from the appeal board. When the faculty member is away from Mt. Pleasant, then a conference call can be used to include the faculty member at part of the hearing.
9. The student may bring an advisor to provide advice and make closing remarks. The student may provide written statements in lieu of attendance but may not be represented without attending. The chair of the appeal board must be given one week's notice in writing if the student is to be accompanied by an advisor and must be told if the advisor is an attorney. If the advisor is an attorney, university counsel may advise the department advocate.
10. If the student who is appealing fails to attend a properly scheduled hearing, the hearing will proceed as scheduled.
11. The chair of the appeal board may decide questions of procedures in any way that will fairly lead to a determination of the facts. The appeal board shall not be bound by Michigan or Federal Rules of Evidence. The chair may limit any argumentative, discourteous, or harassing witness.
12. The chair will open the hearing. All persons present shall establish their identities. The chair shall identify the case being considered.
13. The burden of proof rests with the department, and only evidence presented at the hearing will be considered.
14. The appeal board will hold its hearing within six weeks of the appeal and communicate its findings to the graduate dean, the student, the faculty member, and the departmental representative within 15 days of the hearing. Appeals filed during the summer will be considered no later than one month after the start of fall term.
15. Hearings shall be closed to the public and tape recorded. Tapes shall be stored in the College of Graduate Studies for a period of one year after the hearing.

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16. If circumstances warrant a change in these procedures, the members of the appeal board may adjust them upon majority vote of the appeal board and approval of the graduate dean, providing the changes do not deprive any of the parties of a fair hearing.
17. The appeal board's decision is by majority vote, and their decision is final. They may uphold or reverse the decision on culpability.
18. Because everyone in the community shares the responsibilities of upholding academic integrity and reporting violations, agreement to abide by this policy as published in the College of Graduate Studies bulletin will be considered a condition of admission.