



Eastern Kentucky University

Policy and Regulation Library

Academic Regulation: 4.1.3ACR

Responsible Office(s): Office of the Provost

Effective: November 18, 2025

Next Review Date: Fall 2030

Academic Regulation: 4.1.3ACR

Academic Integrity

Statement

Eastern Kentucky University is a community of shared academic values, foremost of which is a strong commitment to intellectual honesty, honorable conduct and respect for others. In order to meet these values, students at ECU are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. These standards are embodied in this policy and the Student Code of Conduct. By honoring and enforcing this Academic Integrity Policy, the University community affirms that it does not tolerate academic dishonesty. This policy defines the various forms of academic dishonesty, and it outlines the consequences for each. Additionally, this policy gives the method for appealing a complainant's allegation that some form of academic dishonesty has in fact occurred.

Academic dishonesty can occur in different forms, some of which include cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication. The University treats all instances of academic dishonesty seriously.

Anyone who knowingly assists in any form of academic dishonesty shall be considered as responsible as the student who accepts such assistance and shall be subject to the same sanctions.

Entities Affected

- Colleges
- Departments
- Faculty
- Students

Procedures

Procedures for Dealing with Academic Integrity Cases

Step 1

When a Violation is Suspected

If an incident of alleged violation of the Academic Integrity Policy is suspected, any member of the EKU community can initiate the process of review by reporting the incident to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (SCCS) or to a faculty/staff member. If a faculty/staff member receives a report of an alleged academic integrity violation, the faculty/staff member shall notify the SCCS Office. The SCCS Office is responsible for notifying the affected faculty/staff member and the appropriate Department Chair/Unit Head of the alleged violations reported to the SCCS Office.

The responsible faculty/staff member may elect to conduct a review of the allegations (Option A) or may elect for the matter to be referred to the SCCS Office (Option B). Prior to selecting either option, the faculty/staff member should contact the SCCS office to determine if the student has a prior violation. Establishing if a student has prior allegations is an important step so that a pattern can be established across courses/disciplines.

If a final grade is to be reported to the University before the academic integrity procedures are completed, the responsible faculty member shall report an “incomplete” for the involved student until the final resolution of the matter. Once the matter is resolved, a grade change form will need to be completed.

Option A: Faculty/Staff Member Conducts Review

If the responsible faculty/staff member chooses to continue the review of the allegations autonomously, the faculty/staff member should obtain and assess the applicable information in determining whether a violation of the Academic Integrity policy has occurred. If the faculty/staff member determines that an Academic Integrity policy violation has occurred, a notification of the violation must be made to the SCCS Office. The faculty/staff member must request information from the SCCS Office regarding the student's previous violations of the Academic Integrity Policy prior to determining a sanction in this particular case.

- Following receipt of information from the SCCS Office, the faculty/staff member notifies the student in writing of the allegations, the sanction, and the right to contest the allegation and sanction according to the Academic Integrity Policy procedure. The responsible Faculty/staff member is encouraged to meet with the student and discuss the allegation and the policy. If the student accepts responsibility for the violation and the sanction in writing, the case is closed. There is no appeal of this decision. Upon determination of responsibility, the SCCS Office will enter the report data in the database.

- If the student does not accept responsibility and chooses to contest the allegation and/or sanction, the faculty/staff member will refer the case to the SCCS Office, within five academic days of the meeting. The SCCS Office will meet with the student to discuss the charge and/or sanctions and the right to contest these. If the student accepts responsibility for the violation and the sanction, the case is closed. There is no appeal from this decision. Notification of the violation is made by the SCCS Office into the database for recordkeeping. If the student contests the allegation and/or sanction, the SCCS Office will schedule a hearing, as soon as practicable, with the specific College Academic Integrity Committee from which the incident occurred.

Option B: Faculty/Staff Member Refers Case to SCCS Office

- If a faculty/staff member chooses to refer the case directly to the SCCS Office, the faculty/staff member will send all information concerning the matter to the SCCS Office and the SCCS Office will meet with the student to discuss the alleged violation. If the student accepts responsibility for the violation and the sanction, the sanction is imposed; the case is closed. There is no appeal from this decision. If the student contests the allegation and/or sanction, the SCCS Office will schedule a hearing, as soon as practicable, with the specific College Academic Integrity Committee from which the incident occurred.

Step 2

College Academic Integrity Committee Hearing

At the College Academic Integrity Hearing, both the student and the faculty/staff member will present information. Both the student and faculty/staff member are permitted to bring witnesses with relevant testimony to the hearing in person. At the College Academic Integrity Hearing, the faculty/staff member will only function as a witness and shall not serve in any adversarial capacity. The Committee members will review all of the information presented and then deliberate in private. At the discretion of the Chair of the Committee, the proceeding may be extended to an additional meeting. At this level of hearing and continuing throughout the process, the student has the option of having a Silent Advisor present. Absent exceptional circumstances beyond the control of the student as determined by the Chair of the Committee, if the student who has been notified of the hearing fails to appear, the proceeding may take place in the student's absence.

A minimum of 4 Committee members must be present. To determine that a violation has occurred, 3 of the 5 Committee members must agree. To determine the sanction, 3 of the 5 Committee members must agree.

The Committee's decision will be binding. If the Committee determines that the student has violated the Academic Integrity Policy, before the sanctioning stage of the hearing, the SCCS Office will provide the Committee with information regarding whether the student has any previous Academic Integrity Policy violations recorded or sanctions imposed. The Committee will deliberate again in private in order to determine the appropriate sanction for this violation. The Office of Student Conduct and Community

Standards will announce the decision within five academic days, after the close of the hearing.

Step 3

Appealing the Decision of the College Academic Integrity Committee

A student can appeal the decision of the College Academic Integrity Committee to the University Academic Integrity Committee. This appeal can only be made based upon irregularities in procedure, new information not available for the first hearing, or punishment not consistent with the violation. The student will notify, in writing, the SCCS Office of the request to appeal to the University Academic Integrity Committee within five academic days of the College Academic Integrity Committee's decision, and a meeting of the University Academic Integrity Committee will be scheduled as soon as practicable.

Step 4

University Academic Integrity Committee Hearing

A minimum of 4 Committee members must be present. To determine that a violation has occurred, 3 of the 5 Committee members must agree. To determine the sanction, 3 of the 5 Committee members must agree.

At the University Academic Integrity Committee appeal review meeting, the Committee members will consider all the written information supplied by the student, and the material considered by the College Academic Integrity Committee, including any response from the faculty/staff member. The Committee can modify or set aside the applied response including sanction, refer the case back to the College Academic Integrity Committee, or uphold the decision. The Chair will announce the decision of the committee, within five academic days, after the close of the hearing.

The decision of the University Academic Integrity Committee is final and can only be appealed if the sanction is suspension, expulsion, or "FX" grade.

Step 5

Appealing the Decision of the University Academic Integrity Committee

If the student chooses to contest the sanction of expulsion, suspension, or "FX" grade, the student can appeal to the Provost. The student will notify, in writing, the Office of the Provost of the student's request and grounds for such request, within five academic days of the University Academic Integrity Committee's decision. An appeal to the Provost can only be based upon irregularities in procedure, new information not available for the first hearing, or punishment not consistent with the violation. The Provost will render a decision, in writing, within ten academic days of receipt of the appeal. The decision of the Provost is final.

Definitions

- **Academic Day:** In this document, academic day refers to days within an academic term. If the academic day occurs on a weekend, holiday, or University break or if the University is closed due to inclement weather, an action required within a specified number of academic days shall be due on the first day practicable on which the University is open during an academic term.
- **Artificial Intelligence Tool:** Any software, platform, or service that uses artificial intelligence (“AI”) technologies, including machine learning algorithms, to generate, process, analyze, or interact with content. This includes, but is not limited to, generative AI systems (e.g., large language models, image generators), AI-enhanced applications (e.g., text prediction, summarization, translation), and tools used for speech, image, video, or data recognition and manipulation. AI tools may be embedded in existing software or accessed as standalone applications.
- **Cheating:** Cheating is an act or attempted act of deception by which a student seeks to misrepresent mastery of information on an academic exercise. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Giving or receiving assistance from any source, human or artificial intelligence, not authorized by the faculty/staff member or university representative.
 - Participating in unauthorized collaboration on an academic exercise.
 - Using unapproved or misusing devices, aids, or tools (including artificial intelligence tools) during an academic exercise.
 - Turning in substantially similar papers/assignments as other student(s).
 - Using artificial intelligence tools in ways prohibited by the faculty/staff member, failing to provide a required disclosure statement, or submitting AI-generated material as one’s own work.
- **College Academic Integrity Committee:** The College Academic Integrity Committee is comprised of 5 members (2 faculty from the department where the incident arose, 1 faculty from the college at large, and 2 students from the college at large but not from the department where the incident arose). If this case involves a graduate student, at least one of the students on the Committee will be a graduate student. One member, elected by the Committee, will serve as Chair. The College may form a standing committee for this purpose. The student members and a student alternate, who shall serve if one of the student members is not available or if there is a conflict of interest, shall be selected by a procedure determined by the college.
- **Disclosure of Artificial Intelligence Use:** Students must follow the faculty/staff member’s requirements for AI disclosure. Failure to follow those requirements may constitute cheating, plagiarism, or fabrication under this regulation.

- **Fabrication:** Fabrication is a form of deception and occurs when a student misrepresents written or verbal information in an academic exercise. Fabrication includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Citation of information not taken from the source indicated. This may include the incorrect documentation of secondary source materials.
 - Listing sources in a bibliography not directly used in the academic exercise.
 - Submission in a paper, thesis, lab report, practicum log, or other academic exercise of falsified, invented, or fictitious data or information or deliberate and knowing concealment or distortion of the true nature origin or function of such data or information.
 - Submitting as one's own any academic exercise (verbal, written, electronic, or artistic work) prepared totally or in part by another person or by an artificial intelligence tool.

- **"FX" Notation:** "FX" grade denotes failure in the course due to academic dishonesty.

- **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism occurs when a student represents work taken from another source as the student's own. It is imperative that a student give credit to information, words, ideas, and images that are integrated into the student's own work. Acknowledgement of a source of information in any form should consist of complete, accurate, and specific references and, if verbatim statements are included, quotation marks as well. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Using words, ideas, or images from another source (including the Internet), whether in quotation marks or not, without giving credit to that source in the form of a bibliographic citation.
 - Using content produced by artificial intelligence tools without providing a disclosure statement.
 - Using facts, statistics, or other supporting materials that are not clearly common knowledge without acknowledgement of the source.

- **Silent Advisor:** An accused student has the right to have a silent advisor present, who may be an attorney, student, friend, etc. at any proceedings at step 2 and step 4. The silent advisor is not permitted to speak in any hearing through this process.

- **Triviality:** A case may be dismissed if it is found to be trivial. A trivial case is one with no possible consequences to a matter of legitimate concern of the academic community or one with no tendency to undermine trust within the community.

- **University Academic Integrity Committee:** The University Academic Integrity Committee pool is comprised of thirteen members: 2 members nominated from each college and 1 student. The college members shall constitute a pool from which to select the sitting committee for an appeal. The student member and a student alternate, who shall serve if the student member is not available or if there is a conflict of interest, shall be nominated by the Student Government Association

Members, except for the student member, shall serve two year, staggered terms. The Chair of the committee shall be elected by the Committee membership.

Responsibilities

- College Academic Integrity Committee
 - The Committee is responsible for determining the facts, and, if the student is found to have violated the Academic Integrity Policy, the Committee must determine the appropriate sanction.
- Faculty
 - If a mid-term or final grade is to be reported to the University during the pendency of the academic integrity procedures, the responsible faculty member shall report an “incomplete” for the involved student until the final resolution of the matter.
- Student Conduct and Community Standards Office
 - Student Conduct and Community Standards Office is responsible for maintaining all records of all incidents involving the ECU Academic Integrity policy.
- University Academic Integrity Committee
 - The Committee is responsible for hearing appeals from the College Academic Integrity Committee of Academic Integrity policy.

Violations of the Policy

Minimum Sanction: The standard minimum sanction for an Academic Integrity Policy violation shall be the assignment of an “F” for the test, assignment or activity in which an incident of academic dishonesty occurred; the student will not be allowed to retake or rewrite the test, assignment or activity. **Sanctions:** In addition to the minimum sanctions for an Academic Integrity Policy violation, other appropriate educational sanctions may be assigned; these sanctions may be given even if this is the first violation of the Academic Integrity Policy. Such sanctions could include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Removal from the course
- Educational sanctions
- Community service
- Precluded from graduating with Honors
- An assigned “F” for the course
- “FX” notation on transcript
- **Suspension**
- **Expulsion**

Educational sanctions may include, but are not limited to, assignments designed to improve student understanding of academic integrity, completion of training modules on responsible use of artificial intelligence tools, or other measures appropriate to the violation.

“F” for the Course:

A student given a sanction of an “F” for the course will not be permitted to drop or withdraw from the course.

“FX” Notation:

The “FX” grade is a final and permanent notation on the student’s transcript. The “FX” grade can only be imposed by the University Academic Integrity Committee. Upon exhaustion of the appeals process set forth in the Academic Integrity Policy 4.1.3, the notation cannot be removed. A student may retake the course where the “FX” notation is applied, and the new grade will replace the “FX” in the calculation of the student’s GPA. The “FX” notation, however, will remain on the student’s transcript.

Statutory or Regulatory References

KRS 164.370

Regulation Adoption Review and Approval

Regulation Revised

DATE

November 18, 2025
October 18, 2024
June 22, 2019
October 24, 2018
October 3, 2018
May 7, 2018
May 6, 2013

ENTITY

President
University Counsel
Board of Regents
President
Provost Council
Faculty Senate
Executive Assistant to the Provost
Board of Regents
President
Provost Council
Faculty Senate
Council on Academic Affairs

ACTION

Approved
Editorial Revision
Adopted
Approved
Approved
Approved
Editorial Revision
Adopted
Approved
Approved
Approved
Approved

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June 12, 2006
December 5, 2005

ENTITY

Board of Regents
Faculty Senate

ACTION

Adopted
Approved

DATE
May 1, 1989

ENTITY
Faculty Senate

ACTION
Approved as Academic
Dishonesty