

Categories of Academic Integrity violation and proposed course penalties

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To facilitate consistency in violation reporting, the Provost's Committee on Academic Integrity (CAI), along with FSCTA and SEC, approved in Fall 2024 a revised list of violation categories with definitions of the conduct that falls into each. This document is a complement to that one, offering guidelines for faculty in determining a course penalty for specified forms of misconduct.

Faculty should remember that the strictest possible course grade penalty—an automatic failing grade in the course—should be reserved for the most severe cases and should not be commonly or uniformly applied, especially to first-year students.

Course grade penalties can be separated into three groups.

Level One: Reduced assignment grade, resubmission accepted

Range of penalties: Any student submission that violates our academic integrity standards should not be accepted for course credit as a general rule. Level One penalties would allow resubmission with a specified grade reduction (student can resubmit for 75% of the original grade, for example). Resubmissions can be required in a format that allows tracked changes or a version history to verify the changes made.

Level Two: Failing grade/zero on assignment

Range of penalties: Assignment grade reduced to zero or F (50%) with no chance to resubmit.

Level Three: Course grade penalty

Range of penalties: Any reduction in final course grade, including an automatic F, with no chance to remedy the reduction. (A zero on a high-stakes assignment is of course equivalent to a reduction of the course grade.)

Categories of violation:	Examples:	Notes:
<u>Minor violations, with some chance of unintentional misconduct</u> Course grade penalty: In most cases, Level One		
Collaborating in areas not approved by the professor	Syllabi should clearly state course policies in these areas. In certain cases, violations in these areas might be considered moderate rather than minor.	This category is intended to describe forms of conduct that may be permissible in certain settings or classes, programs, or schools but not others. It is also intended to describe misconduct arising from first-year students' varying levels of preparation for college-level work.
Unauthorized multiple submission of one's own work		
Plagiarism with mitigating circumstances		
<u>Moderate violations, with intentional misconduct likely</u> Course grade penalty: In most cases, Level Two		
Fabricating data or citations	Representing sources for an assignment that do not exist. This should not include AI "hallucinations," which are defined as "plagiarism" in our definitions.	This category is intended to describe conduct that is clearly forbidden. It is distinct from Minor and Severe misconduct by virtue of mitigating or aggravating circumstances particular to the situation.
Plagiarism, provided that the bulk of the submission is the student's own original work	Plagiarism violations that reach this level may also be considered severe.	
<u>Severe violations, with intentional dishonesty likely</u> Course grade penalty: Level Two or Three		
Cheating	Including the use of unauthorized sources or other students' work during an exam or the submission of an assignment not the student's own.	Only in cases of severe misconduct like these should severe course grade penalties be applied.
Plagiarism		
Tampering with or falsifying records	This can include misconduct during the reporting process, including false statements or an attempt to conceal evidence.	
Sabotage of others' work, including library vandalism or manipulation		