

WAC 504-26-415 Procedure for academic integrity violations. (1)

Initial hearing.

(a) When a responsible instructor believes that an academic integrity violation has occurred, the instructor must assemble the evidence and, upon reasonable notice to the respondent of the date, time, and nature of the allegations, make reasonable attempts to meet with the respondent suspected of committing an academic integrity violation.

(b) If the respondent admits that they committed an academic integrity violation, the instructor assigns an outcome in keeping with published course policies and notifies CCS in writing, including the allegations, the respondent's admission, and the sanctions assigned.

(c) If the instructor is unable to meet with the respondent or if the respondent disputes the allegation(s) and/or the outcome proposed by the instructor, the instructor must make a determination as to whether the respondent did or did not commit an academic integrity violation based on a preponderance of the evidence standard, meaning that it is more likely than not that the violation occurred. If the instructor finds that the respondent was in violation, the instructor must provide the respondent and CCS with a written determination, the evidence relied upon, and the sanctions assigned.

(d) The respondent has 21 calendar days from the date of the decision letter to request review of the instructor's determination and/or sanction(s) assigned to the academic integrity hearing board.

(2) Review.

(a) Upon timely request for review by a respondent who has been found by their instructor to have committed an academic integrity violation, the academic integrity hearing board must make a separate and independent determination of whether or not the respondent is responsible for committing an academic integrity violation and/or whether the outcome proposed by the instructor is in keeping with the instructor's published course policies.

(b) The academic integrity hearing board must consist of a minimum of three members. A quorum of three is needed to review a matter. A minimum of one academic integrity hearing board member must be an enrolled student. The remaining members may be students, or full-time or part-time faculty of any rank or classification. No academic integrity hearing board member may serve on a case if the member previously served on a board in a case involving the same student.

(c) The academic integrity hearing board is empowered to provide an appropriate remedy for a respondent including arranging a withdrawal from the course, having the respondent's work evaluated, or changing a grade where it finds that:

(i) The respondent is not responsible for violating academic integrity policies; or

(ii) The outcome assigned by the instructor violates the instructor's published policies.

(d) Academic integrity hearing board proceedings.

(i) Any respondent appealing a responsible instructor's finding of an academic integrity violation is provided written notice of an academic integrity hearing board hearing in accordance with WAC 504-26-035. The written notice must include:

(A) The specific complaint, including the university or instructor academic integrity policy or regulation allegedly violated;

(B) The approximate time and place of the alleged act that forms the factual basis for the violation;

(C) The time, date, and place of the hearing;

- (D) A list of the witnesses who may be called to testify, to the extent known; and
- (E) A description of all documentary and real evidence to be used at the hearing, to the extent known, including a statement that the respondent must have the right to inspect the documentation.
- (ii) Time for hearings.
- (A) Academic integrity hearing board hearings are scheduled not less than seven calendar days after the respondent has been sent notice of the hearing.
- (B) Requests to extend the time and/or date for hearing must be addressed to the chair of the academic integrity hearing board, and must be copied to CCS. A request for extension of time is granted only upon a showing of good cause.
- (iii) Academic integrity hearing board hearings are conducted according to the following procedures, except as provided by (d)(iv) of this subsection:
- (A) Academic integrity hearing board hearings are conducted in private.
- (B) The instructor, respondent, and their advisor, if any, are allowed to attend the entire portion of the hearing at which information is received (excluding deliberations). Admission of any other person to the hearing is at the discretion of the academic integrity hearing board chair.
- (C) In academic integrity hearings involving more than one respondent, the academic integrity hearing board chair may permit joint or separate hearings at the chair's discretion.
- (D) In hearings involving graduate respondents, board memberships are comprised to include graduate students and graduate teaching faculty to the extent possible.
- (E) The responsible instructor and the respondent may arrange for witnesses to present relevant information to the academic integrity hearing board. Witnesses must provide written statements to the conduct officer at least two weekdays before the hearing. The respondent is responsible for informing their witnesses of the time and place of the hearing. Witnesses provide information to and answer questions from the academic integrity hearing board, the responsible instructor, and the respondent, as appropriate. The respondent and/or responsible instructor may submit written questions to be answered by each other or by other witnesses. Written questions are submitted to, and asked by, the academic integrity hearing board chair. This method is used to preserve the educational tone of the hearing and to avoid creation of an unduly adversarial environment, and to allow the board chair to determine the relevancy of questions. Questions concerning whether potential information may be received are resolved at the discretion of the academic integrity hearing board chair, who has the discretion to determine admissibility of information.
- (F) Pertinent records, exhibits, and written statements may be accepted as information for consideration by an academic integrity hearing board at the discretion of the chair.
- (G) Questions related to the order of the proceedings are subject to the final decision of the chair of the academic integrity hearing board.
- (H) After the portion of the hearing concludes in which all pertinent information is received, the academic integrity hearing board determines (by majority vote) whether or not the respondent is more likely than not responsible for violating the academic integrity poli-

cy and/or whether the outcome proposed by the instructor is in keeping with the instructor's published course policies.

(I) The respondent is notified of the academic integrity hearing board's decision within 20 calendar days from the date the matter is heard. The respondent must receive written notice of the decision, the reasons for the decision (both the factual basis therefore and the conclusions as to how those facts apply to the academic integrity policies), and the sanction.

(iv) If a respondent to whom notice of the hearing has been sent (in the manner provided above) does not appear at the hearing, the information in support of the complaint is presented and considered in the respondent's absence, and the board may issue a decision based upon that information.

(v) The academic integrity hearing board may for convenience, or to accommodate concerns for the personal safety, well-being, and/or fears of confrontation of any person, provide separate facilities, and/or permit participation by telephone, audio tape, written statement, or other means, as determined in the sole judgment of the chair of the academic integrity hearing board to be appropriate.

(vi) The written decision of the academic integrity hearing board is the university's final order. There is no appeal from findings of responsibility or outcomes assigned by academic integrity hearing board.

(3) If the reported violation is the respondent's first offense, CCS ordinarily requires the respondent to attend a workshop separate from, and in addition to, any academic outcomes assigned by the instructor.

(4) If the reported violation is the respondent's second offense, the respondent is ordinarily referred for a full adjudicative hearing in accordance with WAC 504-26-403, to determine appropriate sanctions, which may include expulsion from the university.

(5) If the instructor or academic integrity hearing board determines that the act of academic dishonesty for which the respondent is found responsible is particularly egregious in light of all attendant circumstances, the instructor or academic integrity hearing board may direct that the respondent's case be referred to the conduct board with a recommendation for expulsion from the university even if it is the respondent's first offense.

(6) Because instructors and departments have a legitimate educational interest in the outcomes, reports of academic integrity hearing board and/or conduct board hearings must be reported to the responsible instructor and the chair or dean.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 28B.30.150. WSR 22-23-142, § 504-26-415, filed 11/21/22, effective 1/1/23; WSR 21-07-057, § 504-26-415, filed 3/15/21, effective 4/15/21; WSR 18-23-083, § 504-26-415, filed 11/19/18, effective 12/20/18.]