

Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM)

Annual Report

Summer Semester 2024 – Spring Semester 2025

Prepared by

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The University's *Code of Student Conduct* defines academic misconduct as "any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university or subvert the educational process" (Faculty [Rule 3335-23-04](#)[A]). The Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) is charged with maintaining the University's academic integrity by investigating and adjudicating "all reported cases of student academic misconduct, with the exception of cases in a professional college having a published honor code." In instances where a student has violated the University's *Code of Student Conduct*, COAM decides upon "suitable disciplinary action" (University Rule [3335-5-48.7](#)[B]). The university revised the policies referenced in the Code of Student Conduct effective January 1, 2024. The most notable changes regarding academic misconduct involve changes to the definitions of prohibited examples of academic misconduct (Rule [3335-23-04](#)[A]) and quorum (Rule [3335-23-15](#)[E]). Data for this year's annual report consist of cases resolved from May 6, 2024 to May 4, 2025 and the report follows the templates for reporting developed by previous COAM chairs and coordinators.

COAM utilizes Zoom for hearings since the start of Summer 2020 term. Links to previous annual reports can be found on the Senate website http://senate.osu.edu/?page_id=183 or at <https://senate.osu.edu/committees/academic-misconduct-coam>. It should be noted that the 2012-13 reporting year was shorter in comparison with previous years because of calendar changes associated with OSU's conversion to semesters.

COAM is composed of thirty (30) faculty members, fifteen (15) graduate students, and fifteen (15) undergraduate students who are appointed by University Senate. The work of COAM is facilitated by the Coordinator who (1) receives and processes allegations of academic misconduct, (2) notifies students of allegations of academic misconduct, (3) consults with students and faculty regarding allegations of academic misconduct, (4) schedules hearings to resolve allegations of academic misconduct and (5) notifies students and faculty of the outcomes of these hearings.

Every student who is charged with academic misconduct has the right to a hearing before a hearing body of COAM. Effective October 2024, students have the option to choose a panel or administrative hearing. A panel hearing is composed of at least three members of COAM and requires at least two faculty representatives and one student representative. An administrative hearing consists of one member of COAM that may be a faculty representative, Coordinator or designee. The hearing body serves as an impartial body that hears evidence and determines (1) if a student has violated the University's *Code of Student Conduct* and (2) an appropriate sanction in cases where a student is found "in violation." If a student takes responsibility for allegations of academic misconduct and waives their right to a hearing, they may have the allegations resolved as an administrative decision. For an administrative decision, a hearing officer reviews and determines appropriate sanctions.

I. SUMMARY OF CASES RESOLVED

During the 2024-2025 academic year, COAM resolved 1148 cases of alleged academic misconduct. Of the cases resolved, 70.6% were resolved as an administrative decision and 29.4% were resolved as a hearing (**Table 1**).

Table 1
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Summary of Total Cases Resolved and Method of Resolution
2024-2025 Academic Year

Method of Resolution	Number of Cases	% of Total Cases
Administrative Decision	787	68.6%
Hearing	338	29.4%
<i>Panel Hearing</i>	243	21.2%
<i>Administrative Hearing</i>	95	8.3%
Invalidated	23	2.0%
TOTALS	1148	100%

Of the cases resolved by COAM this past reporting year, 1088¹ (94.6%) resulted in findings of "in violation" (**Table 2**). Of the 1148 cases closed, 1125 cases were issued charges while 23 were invalidated for reasons including but not limited to weight of evidence did not support the allegation or duplicate submissions.

¹ Total findings adjusted after appeals, as noted in Section VI of this report.

Table 2
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Distribution of Cases by Finding
2024-2025 Academic Year

	Students Found "Not In Violation"	Students Found "In Violation"	Invalidated	Total Cases
TOTALS	37	1088	23	1148

II. SUMMARY OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT CHARGES

When allegations of academic misconduct arise, a student often does not know or understand what they have allegedly done wrong. Since COAM desires that the hearing process be an educational process, the Coordinator and/or office staff meets with a student charged with violating the *Code of Student Conduct* upon request. The nature of the behavior that led to the allegations is explained. **Table 3** summarizes information on academic misconduct charges for the 2024-2025 academic year. The left column is a list of the types of charges used most commonly by COAM. The "Number of Charges" column lists the total number of charges assigned by COAM for each particular violation, and the "% of Cases with Charge" column lists the number of charges as a percentage of the total number of cases assigned charges (1125 cases). The last two columns list the number of findings of "in violation" associated with each charge and the respective percentage for each. For example, of 354 charges of plagiarism, 339 (96.0%) were found "in violation."

Students are often charged with and found "in violation" of more than one charge. Thus, the total number of charges (2774) exceeds the total number of cases resolved by COAM (1148), and the total for "Number In Violation" (2639) exceeds the actual number of *students* found "in violation" (1088).

Due to changes in both the numbering and wording of the charges as defined in the prohibited examples of academic misconduct (Rule 3335-23-04[A]) starting with spring 2024 cases, the charges shown in this report represent the new code changes. The summary merges the previous charges with the new charges based upon the description of the rule. It should be noted that copying is now included in the definition of plagiarism. An increase is shown in "compromising the academic misconduct of the university" (A) and "falsification, fabrication, or dishonesty" (A7) charges as compared to previous years and can be partially explained by generative artificial intelligence allegations.

"Violation of course rules and/or assignment guidelines" generally accompanies the other more specific charges, and so a student who is found in violation on a specific charge may also be found—by entailment—in violation of course policy. In the majority of COAM cases, charges against students stem from the failure to follow course or assignment guidelines, and this charge may be used by itself alone if the allegations stem directly from a failure to follow course

guidelines.

Table 3
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Summary of Academic Misconduct Charges by Type and Finding
2024-2025 Academic Year

Charge	Number of Charges	% of Cases with Charge	Number "In Violation"	% "In Violation"
3335-23-04 (A) Compromise the academic integrity of the university or subvert the educational process	118	10.5%	106	89.8%
3335-23-04 (A1) Violation of course rules and/or assignment guidelines as contained in the course syllabus or other information provided to the student	1090	96.9%	1053	96.6%
3335-23-04 (A2) Knowingly requesting, providing, and/or receiving unauthorized information, materials, and/or assistance during academic activities	142	12.6%	131	92.3%
3335-23-04 (A3) Possession and/or use of unauthorized information, materials, and/or assistance during academic activities	354	31.5%	331	93.5%
3335-23-04 (A4) Submitting plagiarized work for an academic requirement. Plagiarism is the representation, including but not limited to copying, of another's work or ideas as one's own; it includes unacknowledged word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing	353	31.4%	339	96.0%
3335-23-04 (A5) Unauthorized use of generative artificial intelligence systems or similar technologies to complete academic activities	292	26.0%	273	93.5%
3335-23-04 (A6) Submitting substantially the same work to satisfy requirements for one course or academic requirement that has been submitted in satisfaction of requirements for another course or academic requirement, without permission	18	1.6%	17	94.4%

Table 3 (continued) Summary of Academic Misconduct Charges by Type and Finding

3335-23-04 (A7) Falsification, fabrication, or dishonesty in creating or reporting laboratory results, research results, and/or academic activities	375	33.3%	362	96.5%
3335-23-04 (A8) Serving as, or enlisting the assistance of a substitute for a student in academic activities	9	0.8%	7	77.8%
3335-23-04 (A9) Alteration of grades or marks by the student in an effort to change the earned grade or credit	2	0.2%	2	100.0%
3335-23-04 (A10) Alteration of academically-related university forms or records, or unauthorized use of those forms or records	0	0.0%	0	
3335-23-04 (A11) Engaging in activities that unfairly place other students at a disadvantage, including but not limited to taking, hiding, or altering resource material, or manipulating a grading system	4	0.4%	3	75.0%
3335-23-04 (A12) Violation of program regulations and/or policies as established by departmental committees and made available to students	2	0.2%	2	100.0%
3335-23-04 (A13) Providing falsified materials, documents, or records to a university official to meet academic qualifications, criteria, or requirements, including but not limited to submitting falsified doctor's notes and/or falsified transcripts	15	1.3%	13	86.7%
TOTALS	2774 Charges per 1125 Cases	--	2639	--

III. SUMMARY OF CASES BASED ON STUDENT’S ENROLLMENT UNIT AND THE INITIATING UNIT

Twenty-one enrollment units on campus were represented in the cases resolved by COAM during the 2024-2025 reporting year, with combined cases from the College of the Arts and Sciences (UASC), College of Engineering (UENG), and the Fisher College of Business (UBUS) accounting for 75% of the total cases (**Table 4**). It should be noted that although the Graduate School is listed as the enrollment units for 64 cases, those students were in graduate programs offered by other academic departments and/or colleges.

The cases heard by COAM during the past year were *initiated* from or involved courses from 87 units across the University, with the combined cases from courses in Communication (119 cases), Psychology (98 cases), Computer Science and Engineering (77 cases), Business Administration: Marketing & Logistics (74 cases) and History (74 cases) accounting for 38.5% of the total cases (**Table 5**). Some units of the university now offer instruction as part of certification programs that may not involve courses listed in the official course catalog maintained by the Registrar. Since the definition of a student in the *Code of Student Conduct* includes any person who entered into agreement with the university to take instruction, allegations of academic misconduct in these certification programs are reported to COAM. Those cases are included in the “Other” category at the bottom of **Tables 5, 6 and 7**.

Table 4
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Distribution of Cases Based on Student's Enrollment Unit
2024-2025 Academic Year

Enrollment Unit	Total for Enrollment Unit	% of Total
UASC (College of the Arts and Sciences)	498	43.38%
UENG (College of Engineering)	202	17.60%
UBUS (College of Business)	161	14.02%
GRD (Graduate School)	64	5.57%
UEHE (Education and Human Ecology)	48	4.18%
UEXP (Exploration Program)	35	3.05%
UHRS (School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences) + UHRSP (Pre-program)	23	2.00%
UAGR (College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences)	22	1.92%
UATI (Agricultural Technical Institute)	20	1.74%
UACD (Academy)	14	1.22%
UENR (School of Environment and Natural Resources)	12	1.05%
UNUR (College of Nursing) + UNURP (Nursing Pre-program)	12	1.05%
UAHR (School of Architecture)	10	0.87%
UPHR (College of Pharmacy)	6	0.52%
USWK (College of Social Work)	6	0.52%
VSTR (Visitor)	6	0.52%
UJGS (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)	3	0.26%
UDHY (Dental Hygiene) + UDHYP (Dental Hygiene Pre-program)	2	0.17%
UPBH (College of Public Health) + UPBHP (Public Health Pre-program)	2	0.17%
UMED (College of Medicine)	1	0.09%
UNDG (Undergraduate Non-Degree)	1	0.09%
TOTALS	1148	100%

Table 5
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Distribution of Cases Based on Initiating Unit
2024-2025 Academic Year

Course Offering Unit & Description		Number of Cases	% of Total
COMM	Communication	119	10.37%
PSYCH	Psychology	98	8.54%
CSE	Computer Science & Engineering	77	6.71%
BUSML	Business Admin: Marketing & Log	74	6.45%
HISTORY	History	74	6.45%
ENGR	Engineering	48	4.18%
CHEM	Chemistry	44	3.83%
SPANISH	Spanish	34	2.96%
ENGLISH	English	31	2.70%
FDSCTE	Food Science & Technology	29	2.53%
MATH	Mathematics	27	2.35%
STAT	Statistics	25	2.18%
PHILOS	Philosophy	24	2.09%
ECE	Electrical and Computer Eng	22	1.92%
THEATRE	Theatre	21	1.83%
SOCIOL	Sociology	20	1.74%
POLITSC	Political Science	18	1.57%
BIOLOGY	Biology	17	1.48%
PHR	Pharmacy	16	1.39%
BUSFIN	Business Admin: Finance	14	1.22%
ENR	Environment & Natural Resource	14	1.22%
CHINESE	Chinese	13	1.13%
FRENCH	French	13	1.13%
SOCWORK	Social Work	13	1.13%
COMPSTD	Comparative Studies	11	0.96%
ISE	Industrial and Sys Engineering	11	0.96%
ARTEDUC	Art Education	10	0.87%
NURSING	Nursing	10	0.87%
PHYSICS	Physics	10	0.87%
ACCTMIS	Accounting and Management Info	9	0.78%
AEDECON	Agricul Envrmtl & Devlop Econ	9	0.78%

Table 5 (continued) Distribution of Cases Based on Initiating Unit

EDUTL	Education:Teaching & Learning	9	0.78%
BUSOBA	Bus Admin: Operat & Bus Analyt	8	0.70%
ECON	Economics	8	0.70%
LING	Linguistics	8	0.70%
PUBHHMP	Pub Hlth: Hlth Srvcs Mgt&Plcy	8	0.70%
BIOCHEM	Biochemistry	7	0.61%
BUSADM	Business Administration	7	0.61%
CBE	Chemical and Biomolecular Eng	7	0.61%
MICRBIO	Microbiology	7	0.61%
BIOETHC	Bioethics	6	0.52%
ANTHROP	Anthropology	5	0.44%
ARTSSCI	Arts and Sciences	5	0.44%
CONSYSM	Construction Systems Mgmt	5	0.44%
GENED	General Education	5	0.44%
GEOG	Geography	5	0.44%
KNSFHP	Kinesiology: Sprt, Ftns&Hlth Pr	5	0.44%
MUSIC	Music	5	0.44%
HIMS	Health Info Mgt & Systems	4	0.35%
SPHHRNG	Speech and Hearing Science	4	0.35%
AVIATN	Aviation	3	0.26%
BUSMHR	Business Admin: Mgmt & HR	3	0.26%
CIVILEN	Civil Engineering	3	0.26%
EARTHSC	Earth Sciences	3	0.26%
EEOB	Evol, Ecology & Organismal Bio	3	0.26%
HISTART	History of Art	3	0.26%
MBA	Master of Business Admin	3	0.26%
PUBAFRS	Public Affairs, John Glenn Col	3	0.26%
PUBHEPI	Pub Hlth: Epidemiology	3	0.26%
ANATOMY	Anatomy	2	0.17%
COMLDR	Community Leadership	2	0.17%
CRPLAN	City and Regional Planning	2	0.17%
ENTMLGY	Entomology	2	0.17%
ESEPSY	Educ Sts: Education Psychology	2	0.17%
ESHESA	Educ Sts: Higher Ed & Std Aff	2	0.17%
EXP	Exploration	2	0.17%
LARCH	Landscape Architecture	2	0.17%

Table 5 (continued) Distribution of Cases Based on Initiating Unit

MATSCEN	Materials Science and Engineer	2	0.17%
MECHENG	Mechanical Engineering	2	0.17%
MOLGEN	Molecular Genetics	2	0.17%
PUBHBIO	Pub Hlth: Biostatistics	2	0.17%
WGSST	Women's, Gender & Sexuality Sts	2	0.17%
ACEL	Agricultural Comm, Ed & Ldrshp	1	0.09%
AFAMAST	African American & African Std	1	0.09%
AGRCOMM	Agricultural Communication	1	0.09%
ANIMSCI	Animal Sciences	1	0.09%
BSGP	Biomedical Sciences Grad Prog	1	0.09%
DENTHYG	Dental Hygiene	1	0.09%
DESIGN	Design	1	0.09%
HDFS	Human Dev and Family Science	1	0.09%
LAW	Law	1	0.09%
MEDREN	Medieval & Renaissance Studies	1	0.09%
NEUROSC	Neuroscience Department	1	0.09%
PUBHLTH	Public Health	1	0.09%
RELSTDS	Religious Studies	1	0.09%
RUSSIAN	Russian	1	0.09%
Other	Other	8	0.70%
TOTALS		1148	100%

IV. SUMMARY OF CASES BASED ON STUDENT’S RANK AND COURSE LEVEL

Approximately 62% of the cases resolved by COAM during the 2024-2025 reporting year were the result of misconduct allegations in 1000- and 2000-level courses (**Table 6**). Fewer cases resulted from allegations in progressively higher-level courses. Some cases of academic misconduct occur outside of a formal class taken for academic credit. Those cases are included in the category “Other”.

Table 6
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Distribution of Cases Based on Course Level (Number)
2024-2025 Academic Year

Course Level (Semesters)	Number of Cases	% of Cases
1000	326	28.4%
2000	381	33.2%
3000	251	21.9%
4000	91	7.9%
5000	34	3.0%
6000	25	2.2%
7000	26	2.3%
8000	6	0.5%
Other	8	0.7%
TOTALS	1148	100%

Table 7 summarizes the number of cases resolved at each level by student class rank. The distribution of cases increases with increasing rank. The greatest number of cases and the highest percentage of cases within a single rank was for rank 4 students. Undergraduates are entering the university with more credit hours, which means that some rank 2 students are in their first year at the university. The largest number of cases involved ranks 3 and 4 students. When cases by rank are expressed as a percentage of total students within each rank based on fifteenth-day student enrollment for Autumn 2024, the distribution of cases are as follows: rank 1 = 1.82% (11,431 students); rank 2 = 2.23% (11,197 students), rank 3 = 2.52% (11,095 students), rank 4 = 1.85% (18,404 students), and graduate students (excluding graduate professional students) = 0.56% (11,408 students). Note: a rank of “Other” may represents visitor or other individuals who took courses as non-degree students and/or were enrolled in a certification program.

Table 7
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Distribution of Cases Based on Student Rank and Course Level
2024-2025 Academic Year

Course Level	Rank						TOTALS	% by Course Level
	1	2	3	4	GRD	Other		
1000	127	89	52	58			326	28.4%
2000	65	102	123	91			381	33.2%
3000	8	54	85	104			251	21.9%
4000	3	5	17	60		6	91	7.9%
5000			3	25	6		34	3.0%
6000					25		25	2.2%
7000					26		26	2.3%
8000					6		6	0.5%
Other	5			2	1		8	0.7%
TOTALS	208	250	280	340	64	6	1148	100%
% by Rank	18.1%	21.8%	24.4%	29.6%	5.6%	0.5%	100%	

V. SUMMARY OF DISCIPLINARY AND GRADE SANCTIONS

When COAM finds that a student has violated the University's *Code of Student Conduct*, COAM imposes sanctions. A sanction typically includes a disciplinary component and a grade-related component. Educational sanctions are used in cases of plagiarism.

The disciplinary sanctions imposed by COAM and the number of cases involved are summarized in **Table 8**. Of the 1148 cases resolved during the 2024-2025 Academic Year, 1088 resulted in a finding of "in violation" and these were accompanied by a disciplinary sanction. As these data demonstrate, most students found "in violation" of the *Code of Student Conduct* received a sanction of "disciplinary probation."

Table 8
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Summary of Disciplinary Sanctions
2024-2025 Academic Year

Disciplinary Sanction	Number of Cases "In Violation"	% of Cases
Formal reprimand	24	2.2%
Disciplinary probation (range = 1 term to "until graduation")	1037	95.3%
Suspension (range = 1 to 2 terms)	23	2.1%
Dismissal	2	0.2%
Other	2	0.2%
TOTALS	1088	100%

The grade sanctions imposed by COAM and the numbers of cases involved are summarized in **Table 9**.

Of the 1088 cases in which a student was found “in violation” in 2024-2025, no grade sanction was authorized in ten of the cases. As these data demonstrate, the modal grade sanction for students found “in violation” of the University’s *Code of Student Conduct* is an authorization for a “0” on all or part of the assignment and a further reduction of the student’s final grade. In most instances, COAM authorizes the instructor to award a grade sanction. In some instances, COAM imposes the sanction of a failing grade directly via the Registrar: “re-enroll with a failing grade” and “E” by action of University Committee. These failing grades may not be removed from the advising report or transcript by petition, substitution, or retroactive withdrawal from the course but are eligible for grade forgiveness. The hearing body has the option to create grade sanctions appropriate to individual cases of academic misconduct and are included in the category “Other”.

Table 9
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Summary of Grade Sanctions
2024-2025 Academic Year

Grade Sanction	Number of Cases	% of Cases
None	10	0.9%
Authorization for a "0" on all or part of the assignment	138	12.7%
Authorization for a reduction in the student's final course grade	82	7.5%
Authorization for “0” on all or part of the assignment and a further reduction of the final letter grade in the course	781	71.8%
Authorization for a final grade of "E" or “U” in the course	24	2.2%
Final Grade of E/U/NP by “action of University Committee”	39	3.6%
Other	14	1.1%
TOTALS	1088	100%

A summary of the disciplinary sanctions received by graduate students who were found in violation of the *Code of Student Conduct* is given in **Table 10**.

Table 10
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Summary of Disciplinary Sanctions for Graduate Students
2024-2025 Academic Year

Disciplinary Sanction	Number of Cases “In Violation”	% of Cases
Formal reprimand	0	0.0%
Disciplinary probation (range = 1 term to “until graduation”)	53	94.6%
Suspension (range = 1 to 4 terms)	2	3.6%
Dismissal	1	1.8%
TOTALS	56	100%

A summary of the grade sanctions received by graduate students during the 2024-2025 academic year is provided in **Table 11**.

Table 11
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Summary of Grade Sanctions for Graduate Students
2024-2025 Academic Year

Grade Sanction	Number of Cases	% of Cases
None	0	0.0%
Authorization for a "0" on all or part of the assignment	27	48.2%
Authorization for a reduction in the student's final course grade	10	17.9%
Authorization for "0" on all or part of the assignment and a further reduction of the final letter grade in the course	15	26.8%
Authorization for a final grade of "E" or "U" in the course	2	3.6%
Final Grade of E/U/NP by "action of University Committee"	1	1.8%
Re-enroll with a final failing grade for the course	0	0.0%
Other	1	1.8%
TOTALS	56	100%

VI. APPEALS

A student who has been found in violation of the *Code of Student Conduct* has the right to appeal the original decision of the hearing body. The appeal is not intended to rehear or reargue the same case and is limited to specific grounds as outlined in the *Code of Student Conduct*. Appeals of decisions of the Committee on Academic Misconduct are submitted for decision to the Executive Vice President and Provost or designee. Of the 1088 cases in which the student was found to be "in violation" by COAM in 2024-2025, 57 cases were appealed. In 41 instances, the decision of the Committee was upheld. Sixteen of the appeals were granted. In ten of those cases the grade sanction was changed and in seven of those cases the disciplinary sanction was changed. In two instances the student was found not in violation and in one instance the student was granted a new hearing.