

Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM)

Annual Report

Summer Semester 2025 – Spring Semester 2026

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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 5, 2025 to May 10, 2026 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 (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 must include at least two faculty members of COAM and one student member of COAM; if more members are available, the hearing may have as many as three faculty members and two student members. 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 2025-2026 academic year, COAM resolved 1499 cases of alleged academic misconduct. Of the cases resolved, 1088 (72.6%) were resolved as an administrative decision and 370 (24.7%) were resolved as a hearing (Table 1). Of the 1499 cases closed, 1458 cases were issued charges while the remaining 41 cases (2.7%) were invalidated for reasons including but not limited to 1) the weight of evidence not supporting the allegation or 2) duplicate submissions. For the cases issued charges (1458), 74.6% were resolved as an administrative decision and 25.4% were resolved as a hearing. Of the cases resolved by COAM this past reporting year, 1430 (95.4%) resulted in findings of "in violation" (Table 2).

Table 1
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Summary of Total Cases Resolved and Method of Resolution
2025-2026 Academic Year

Method of Resolution	Number of Cases	% of Total Cases
Administrative Decision	1088	72.6%
Hearings (total)	370	24.7%
<i>Panel Hearing</i>	295	19.7%
<i>Administrative Hearing</i>	75	5.0%
Invalidated	41	2.7%
TOTALS	1499	100%

Table 2
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Distribution of Cases by Finding
2025-2026 Academic Year

	Students Found "Not In Violation"	Students Found "In Violation"	Invalidated	Total Cases
TOTALS	28	1430	41	1499

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. During this meeting, the student is provided with an explanation of the allegations. Table 3 summarizes information on academic misconduct charges for the 2025-2026 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 (1458 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 353 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 (4303) exceeds the total number of cases resolved by COAM (1458), and the total for "Number In Violation" (4149) exceeds the actual number of *students* found "in violation" (1430).

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. It should be noted that copying is now included in the definition of plagiarism. An increase is shown in the charges of "compromising the academic misconduct of the university" (A) and "falsification, fabrication, or dishonesty" (A7) as compared to previous years and can be partially explained by generative artificial intelligence allegations (A5).

"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
2025-2026 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	358	24.6%	346	96.6%
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	1413	96.9%	1371	97.0%
3335-23-04 (A2) Knowingly requesting, providing, and/or receiving unauthorized information, materials, and/or assistance during academic activities	99	6.8%	97	98%
3335-23-04 (A3) Possession and/or use of unauthorized information, materials, and/or assistance during academic activities	282	19.3%	272	96.5%
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	24.2%	339	96.0%
3335-23-04 (A5) Unauthorized use of generative artificial intelligence systems or similar technologies to complete academic activities	816	56.0%	766	93.9%
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	16	1.1%	16	100.0%

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

Charge	Number of Charges	% of Cases with Charge	Number "In Violation"	% "In Violation"
3335-23-04 (A7) Falsification, fabrication, or dishonesty in creating or reporting laboratory results, research results, and/or academic activities	932	63.9%	908	97.4%
3335-23-04 (A8) Serving as, or enlisting the assistance of a substitute for a student in academic activities	12	0.8%	12	100.0%
3335-23-04 (A9) Alteration of grades or marks by the student in an effort to change the earned grade or credit	1	0.1%	1	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	1	0.1%	1	100.0%
3335-23-04 (A12) Violation of program regulations and/or policies as established by departmental committees and made available to students	5	0.3%	5	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	1.0%	15	100.0%
TOTALS	4303 Charges in 1458 Cases	--	4149	--

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 2025-2026 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 69% of the total cases (**Table 4**). It should be noted that although the Graduate School is listed as the enrollment units for 81 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 94 units across the University, with the combined cases from the top five courses in Psychology (235 cases), English (129 cases), Food Science & Technology (106 cases), Computer Science & Technology (63 cases) and History (62 cases) accounting for 39.7% 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
2025-2026 Academic Year

Enrollment Unit	Total Cases from Enrollment Unit	% of Total
UASC (College of the Arts and Sciences)	512	34.16%
UENG (College of Engineering)	272	18.15%
UBUS (College of Business)	246	16.41%
UEHE (Education and Human Ecology)	102	6.80%
GRD (Graduate School)	81	5.40%
UHRP (School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences) + UHRSP (Pre-program)	67	4.47%
UEXP (Exploration Program)	54	3.60%
UATI (Agricultural Technical Institute)	31	2.07%
UAGR (College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences)	28	1.87%
UNUR (College of Nursing) + UNURP (Nursing Pre-program)	20	1.33%
UACD (Academy)	16	1.07%
UPHR (College of Pharmacy)	15	1.00%
USWK (College of Social Work)	15	1.00%
UDHY (Dental Hygiene) + UDHY (Dental Hygiene Pre-program)	8	0.53%
UAHR (School of Architecture)	7	0.47%
UENR (School of Environment and Natural Resources)	6	0.40%
UPBH (College of Public Health) + UPBHP (Public Health Pre-program)	6	0.40%
VSTR (Visitor)	4	0.27%
UJGS (John Glenn College of Public Affairs)	3	0.20%
UNDG (Undergraduate Non-Degree)	3	0.20%
UMED (College of Medicine)	3	0.20%
TOTALS	1499	100%

Table 5
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Distribution of Cases Based on Initiating Unit
2025-2026 Academic Year

Course Offering Unit & Description		Number of Cases	% of Total
PSYCH	Psychology	235	15.68%
ENGLISH	English	129	8.61%
FDSCTE	Food Science & Technology	106	7.07%
CSE	Computer Science & Engineering	63	4.20%
HISTORY	History	62	4.14%
COMM	Communication	60	4.00%
ENGR	Engineering	54	3.60%
SOCIOL	Sociology	48	3.20%
BUSFIN	Business Admin: Finance	45	3.00%
PHR	Pharmacy	45	3.00%
PHILOS	Philosophy	42	2.80%
CHEM	Chemistry	35	2.33%
BIOLOGY	Biology	33	2.20%
BUSML	Business Admin: Marketing & Log	32	2.13%
MATH	Mathematics	32	2.13%
ECE	Electrical and Computer Eng	28	1.87%
STAT	Statistics	24	1.60%
NURSING	Nursing	22	1.47%
ARTEDUC	Art Education	20	1.33%
SPANISH	Spanish	19	1.27%
PHYSICS	Physics	17	1.13%
MICRBIO	Microbiology	16	1.07%
Other	Other Academic Activity	16	1.07%
ECON	Economics	15	1.00%
BUSOBA	Bus Admin: Operat & Bus Analyt	14	0.93%
MATSCEN	Materials Science and Engineer	14	0.93%
SOCWORK	Social Work	14	0.93%
BIOETHC	Bioethics	13	0.87%
ISE	Industrial and Sys Engineering	13	0.87%
THEATRE	Theatre	13	0.87%
COMPSTD	Comparative Studies	12	0.80%
HTHRHSC	Health and Rehabilitation Sci	12	0.80%

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

Course Offering Unit & Description		Number of Cases	% of Total
ACCTMIS	Accounting and Management Info	11	0.73%
POLITSC	Political Science	10	0.67%
ANIMSCI	Animal Sciences	9	0.60%
ANTHROP	Anthropology	8	0.53%
DENTHYG	Dental Hygiene	6	0.40%
EDUTL	Education: Teaching & Learning	6	0.40%
HEBREW	Hebrew	6	0.40%
HUMNNTR	Human Nutrition	6	0.40%
LING	Linguistics	6	0.40%
PUBAFRS	Public Affairs, John Glenn Col	6	0.40%
PUBHBIO	Pub Hlth: Biostatistics	6	0.40%
AVIATN	Aviation	5	0.33%
BIOCHEM	Biochemistry	5	0.33%
MECHENG	Mechanical Engineering	5	0.33%
SPHHRNG	Speech and Hearing Science	5	0.33%
TLTED	Teach & Learn Teacher Educ	5	0.33%
AGRCOMM	Agricultural Communication	4	0.27%
ART	Art	4	0.27%
BUSMHR	Business Admin: Mgmt & HR	4	0.27%
ENTMLGY	Entomology	4	0.27%
ESEPSY	Educ Sts: Education Psychology	4	0.27%
HDFS	Human Dev and Family Science	4	0.27%
BIOMEDE	Biomedical Engineering	3	0.20%
CBE	Chemical and Biomolecular Eng	3	0.20%
CIVILEN	Civil Engineering	3	0.20%
GERMAN	German	3	0.20%
KNSFHP	Kinesiology:Sprt, Ftns & Hlth Pr	3	0.20%
MOLGEN	Molecular Genetics	3	0.20%
WGSST	Women's, Gender & Sexuality Sts	3	0.20%
ACEL	Agricultural Comm, Ed & Ldrshp	2	0.13%
ARCH	Architecture	2	0.13%
ARTSSCI	Arts and Sciences	2	0.13%
EALL	East Asian Languages and Lit	2	0.13%
EHE	Education and Human Ecology	2	0.13%
ENR	Environment & Natural Resource	2	0.13%

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

Course Offering Unit & Description		Number of Cases	% of Total
GENED	General Education	2	0.13%
HIMS	Health Info Mgt & Systems	2	0.13%
HISTART	History of Art	2	0.13%
NEURO	Neurology	2	0.13%
OSBP	Ohio State Biochemistry Prg	2	0.13%
PUBHHBP	Pub Hlth: Hlth Bhvr & Hlth Prom	2	0.13%
VETPREV	Veterinary Preventive Medicine	2	0.13%
AEROENG	Aerospace Engineering	1	0.07%
CHINESE	Chinese	1	0.07%
CIVICTL	Civic Thought and Leadership	1	0.07%
CLAS	Classics	1	0.07%
CONSYSM	Construction Systems Mgmt	1	0.07%
EDUCST	Educational Studies	1	0.07%
EEOB	Evol, Ecology & Organismal Bio	1	0.07%
FRIT	French and Italian	1	0.07%
LAW	Law	1	0.07%
MBA	Master of Business Admin	1	0.07%
MDN	Master of Dietetics & Nutritio	1	0.07%
MUSIC	Music	1	0.07%
NEUROSC	Neuroscience Department	1	0.07%
NRSADV	Nursing Advancement	1	0.07%
PLNTPH	Plant Pathology	1	0.07%
PUBHEPI	Pub Hlth: Epidemiology	1	0.07%
PUBHHMP	Pub Hlth: Hlth Svcs Mgt & Plcy	1	0.07%
PUBHLTH	Public Health	1	0.07%
RELSTDS	Religious Studies	1	0.07%
SLAVIC	Slavic Languages & Literatures	1	0.07%
TOTALS		1499	100%

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

Approximately 67% of the cases resolved by COAM during the 2025-2026 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)
2025-2026 Academic Year

Course Level (Semesters)	Number of Cases	% of Cases
1000	585	39.0%
2000	420	28.0%
3000	275	18.3%
4000	80	5.3%
5000	60	4.0%
6000	23	1.5%
7000	37	2.5%
8000	3	0.2%
Other	16	1.1%
TOTALS	1499	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 2 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 2025, the distribution of cases are as follows: rank 1 = 2.60% (9,912 students); rank 2 = 2.70% (12,651 students), rank 3 = 2.79% (11,593 students), rank 4 = 2.69% (18,265 students), and graduate students (excluding graduate professional students) = 0.71% (11,463 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
2025-2026 Academic Year

Course Level	Rank						TOTALS	% by Course Level
	1	2	3	4	GRD	Other		
1000	197	158	94	135		1	585	39.0%
2000	37	124	130	129			420	28.0%
3000	15	47	77	133		3	275	18.3%
4000		7	10	63			80	5.3%
5000		2	12	29	17		23	4.0%
6000					23		23	1.5%
7000					37		37	2.5%
8000					3		3	0.2%
Other	9	4		2	1		16	1.1%
TOTALS	258	342	323	491	81	4	1499	100%
% by Rank	17.2%	22.8%	21.5%	32.58%	5.4%	0.3%	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 1499 cases resolved during the 2025-2026 Academic Year, 1430 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
2025-2026 Academic Year

Disciplinary Sanction	Number of Cases	% of Cases
Formal reprimand	55	3.8%
Disciplinary probation (range = 1 term to "until graduation")	1318	92.2%
Suspension (range = 1 to 2 terms)	45	3.1%
Dismissal	11	0.8%
Other	1	0.1%
TOTALS	1430	100%

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

Of the 1430 cases in which a student was found “in violation” of the University’s *Code of Student Conduct* in 2025-2026, the modal grade sanction for students 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. But in some instances, COAM imposes the sanction of a failing grade directly via the Registrar: “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.” Students received a plagiarism definition review as part of an educational sanction in 34% of cases.

Table 9
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Summary of Grade Sanctions
2025-2026 Academic Year

Grade Sanction	Number of Cases	% of Cases
None	13	0.9%
Authorization for a "0" on all or part of the assignment	99	6.9%
Authorization for a reduction in the student's final course grade	62	4.3%
Authorization for “0” on all or part of the assignment and a further reduction of the final letter grade in the course	1077	75.3%
Authorization for a final grade of "E" or “U” in the course	37	2.6%
Final Grade of E/U/NP by “action of University Committee”	107	7.5%
Other	35	2.4%
TOTALS	1430	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
2025-2026 Academic Year

Disciplinary Sanction	Number of Cases	% of Cases
Formal reprimand	4	5.4%
Disciplinary probation (range = 1 term to “until graduation”)	61	82.4%
Suspension (range = 1 to 4 terms)	3	4.1%
Dismissal	5	6.8%
Other	1	1.4%
TOTALS	74	100%

A summary of the grade sanctions received by graduate students during the 2025-2026 academic year is provided in **Table 11**.

Table 11
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Summary of Grade Sanctions for Graduate Students
2025-2026 Academic Year

Grade Sanction	Number of Cases	% of Cases
None	1	1.3%
Authorization for a "0" on all or part of the assignment	12	16.0%
Authorization for a reduction in the student's final course grade	2	2.7%
Authorization for "0" on all or part of the assignment and a further reduction of the final letter grade in the course	45	60.0%
Authorization for a final grade of "E" or "U" in the course	5	6.7%
Final Grade of E/U/NP by "action of University Committee"	7	9.3%
Other	3	4.0%
TOTALS	75	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 1430 cases in which the student was found to be "in violation" by COAM in 2025-2026, 131 cases were appealed. In 110 instances, the decision of the Committee was upheld. Twenty-one of the appeals were granted. In four of those cases the grade sanction was changed and in 14 of those cases the disciplinary sanction was changed. The student was found "not in violation" in three instances.