

Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) Annual Report Summer Quarter, 2004 – Spring Quarter, 2005

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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, and [in instances where a student has violated the University's *Code of Student Conduct*] deciding upon suitable disciplinary action" (University Rule 3335-5-487[B]).

COAM is composed of 18 faculty members, seven graduate students (appointed by CGS), and seven undergraduate students (appointed by USG). 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 accused of academic misconduct has the right to a hearing before a panel of COAM. A panel consists of at least four members of COAM, and the rules require that each panel have at least two faculty representatives and one student representative. The panel serves as an impartial hearing 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 agrees with the allegations of academic misconduct and waives his/her right to a hearing, he/she may have the allegations resolved as an administrative decision. For an administrative decision, a member of COAM serves as a hearing officer and determines the sanctions.

I. SUMMARY OF CASES RESOLVED

During the 2004-2005 academic year, COAM resolved 539 cases of alleged academic misconduct. This represents an increase of 81 cases (18%) over the previous year. Of the cases resolved, 191 (35%) were resolved as administrative decisions and 348 (65%) were resolved as panel hearings (**Table 1**). Females and males represented 38% and 62%, respectively, of the cases resolved (**Table 2**).

Table 1.
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Summary of Total Cases Resolved and Method of Resolution
2004-2005 Academic Year

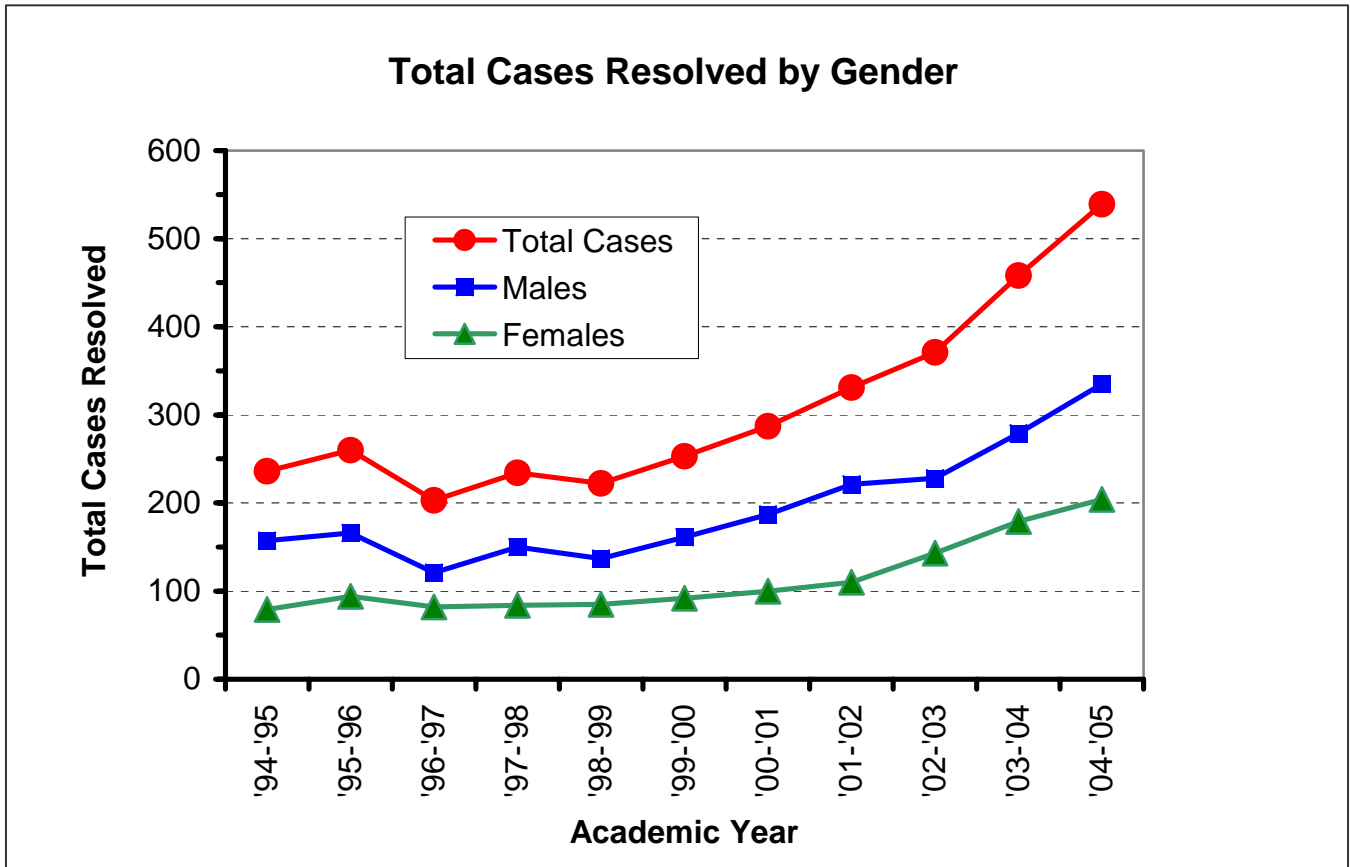
	Number of Cases	% of Total Cases
Administrative Decisions	191	35.4%
Panel Hearings	348	64.6%
Totals	539	100.0%

Table 2.
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Summary of Total Cases Resolved and Student's Gender
2004-2005 Academic Year

Gender	Number of Cases	% of Total Cases
Female	204	37.8%
Male	335	62.2%
Totals	539	100.0%

Figure 1 summarizes the total cases resolved by COAM and the distribution of these cases between males and females for the past 11 academic years. During this period, the number of cases resolved by COAM each year has more than doubled. However, the distribution of cases between males and females has not changed dramatically, with males accounting routinely for approximately 60% of the cases resolved by COAM.

Figure 1.
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Summary of Total Cases Resolved and Student's Gender
Academic Years 1994-1995 through 2004-2005



Of the 539 cases resolved by COAM this past year, 81 (15%) and 458 (85%) resulted in verdicts of “not in violation” and “in violation,” respectively, and the rates at which males and females were found “in violation” of the *Code of Student Conduct* were approximately equal (**Table 3**).

Table 3.
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Distribution of Cases Resolved Based on Students' Gender and Verdict
2004-2005 Academic Year

Gender	Students Found "Not In Violation"	Students Found "In Violation"	Total Cases	% In Violation (% of Total for Gender)
Female	33	171	204	83.8%
Male	48	287	335	85.7%
Totals	81	458	539	85.0%

II. SUMMARY OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT CHARGES

When allegations of academic misconduct arise, a student often does not know or understand what he/she has allegedly done wrong. Since COAM desires that the hearing process be an educational process, the Coordinator charges the student with violating the *Code of Student Conduct* using terminology that explains the nature of the behavior that lead to the allegations. **Table 4** summarizes information on academic misconduct charges for the 2004-2005 academic year. The left column is a list of the charges used most commonly by COAM. The "Number of Students" column lists the total number of students charged with a particular violation, and the "% of Total" column lists the "Number of Students" as a percentage of the total charges (1113). The last two columns list the number of students found "in violation" (Number IV) of each charge and the number of students found "in violation" of each charge as a percentage of the total number of students charged. For example, of 172 students charged with plagiarism, 162 (94.2%) were found "in violation."

Students are often charged with and found "in violation" of more than one charge. Thus, the total number of charges (1113) exceeds the total cases resolved by COAM (539), and the total for "Number IV" (815) exceeds the actual number of students found "in violation" (458).

The relatively low values for the percentages of students found "in violation" of collusion and copying are misleading. They result because COAM often treats the charges of "copying" and "collusion" as mutually exclusive. In many of the cases where COAM receives information alleging that one student may have copied the work of another student, it's not clear which student (if any) copied and whether or not there was collusion (working together in an unauthorized manner). Thus, in many of these cases,

all of the students involved are charged with copying **and** collusion, but, if found “in violation,” they are found “in violation” of only copying **or** collusion.

Table 4.
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Summary of Charges for Which Students Were Found
“In Violation” of the University’s Code of Student Conduct
2004-2005 Academic Year

Charge	Number of Students	% of Total	Number IV	% IV
Plagiarism (submitting plagiarized work in fulfillment of an academic assignment)	172	15.5%	162	94.2%
Copying (attempting to copy) the work of another student in an unauthorized manner and misrepresenting (attempting to misrepresent) it as one's own work	264	23.7%	137	51.9%
Collusion (any instance where two or more students work together and/or share information in a manner that is unauthorized, deceitful, and/or fraudulent)	223	20.0%	147	65.9%
Failure to comply with course/program policies and/or guidelines	241	21.7%	198	82.2%
Submission of work not performed in a course	36	3.2%	32	88.9%
Engaging in activities that place other students at an unfair advantage.	12	1.1%	8	66.7%
Possession and/or use of unauthorized materials during an examination or other course activity	31	2.8%	25	80.6%
Forgery	19	1.7%	14	73.7%
Alteration and resubmission of course materials in an attempt to change the earned credit or grade	6	0.5%	4	66.7%

Charge	Number of Students	% of Total	Number IV	% IV
Requesting and/or receiving unauthorized assistance during an examination, course activity, and/or academic assignment	81	7.3%	66	81.5%
Acting as a substitute ("ringer") for another student during an examination or other course activity	7	0.6%	5	71.4%
Requesting that another student take your place during an examination or other course activity	11	1.0%	8	72.7%
Other charges	10	0.9%	9	90.0%
Totals	1113	100.0%	815	

III. SUMMARY OF CASES BASED ON STUDENT'S COLLEGE OF ENROLLMENT AND REFEREEING DEPARTMENT

Over 20 enrollment units on campus were represented by the cases resolved by COAM during the past year (**Table 5**), but the students from four enrollment units (College of Engineering [ENG], Undergraduate Student Academic Services [USAS], College of Social and Behavioral Sciences [SBS], and College of Business), when combined, accounted for 60% of all cases.

Table 5.
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Distribution of Cases Based on Student's Enrollment Unit
2004-2005 Academic Year

Enrollment Unit	Total for Enrollment Unit	% of All Cases
AGR (College of Food, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences)	10	1.9%
AHR (School of Architecture)	3	0.6%

Enrollment Unit	Total for Enrollment Unit	% of All Cases
AMP (School of Allied Medical Professions)	16	3.0%
ART (College of Art)	6	1.1%
ASC (Colleges of the Arts and Sciences)	5	0.9%
ATI (Agricultural Technical Institute)	17	3.2%
BIO (College of Biological Sciences)	29	5.4%
BUS (College of Business)	63	11.7%
CED (Continuing Education)	1	0.2%
EDU (College of Education)	10	1.9%
ENG (College of Engineering)	99	18.4%
GRD (Graduate School)	24	4.5%
HEC (College of Human Ecology)	29	5.4%
HUM (College of Humanities)	21	3.9%
JUR (School of Journalism and Communications)	2	0.4%
MPS (College of Mathematical and Physical Sciences)	10	1.9%
MUS (School of Music)	2	0.4%
NRE (College of Natural Resources)	3	0.6%
NUR (College of Nursing)	7	1.3%
PHP (Pharm. D. Program)	7	1.3%
PHR (College of Pharmacy)	9	1.7%
SBS (College of Social and Behavioral Sciences)	73	13.5%
SWK (College of Social Work)	3	0.6%
USAS (Undergraduate Student Academic Services)	90	16.7%
Totals	539	100.0%

The cases heard by COAM during the past year originated from over 65 departments across the University (**Table 6**), with the combined cases from Computer Science and

Engineering (12.2% of all cases), Chemistry (11.7%), History (9.8%), Engineering (6.3%), Statistics (6.1%) and English (4.6%) accounting for over 50% of the total cases.

Table 6.
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Distribution of Cases Based on Referring Department
2004-2005 Academic Year

Course (Department)	Number of Cases	% of Total
ACCT&MIS [Accounting and Management Information Systems]	5	0.9%
AED ECON [Agricultural, Environmental, and Developmental Economics]	2	0.4%
ALLI MED [Allied Medicine]	1	0.2%
ANTHROP [Anthropology]	1	0.2%
ART EDUC [Art Education]	3	0.6%
ASTRON [Astronomy]	1	0.2%
BIOCHEM [Biochemistry]	1	0.2%
BIOLOGY	13	2.4%
BUS TEC [Business Technology]	9	1.7%
BUS-FIN [Business Administration: Finance]	2	0.4%
BUS-M&L [Business Administration: Marketing and Logistics]	2	0.4%
BUS-MGT [Business Administration: Management Sciences]	7	1.3%
CHBE [Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering]	2	0.4%
CHEM [Chemistry]	63	11.7%
CIVIL EN [Civil Engineering]	2	0.4%
CLASSICS	1	0.2%
COMM [Communications]	1	0.2%
COMP STD [Comparative Studies in the Humanities]	2	0.4%

Course (Department)	Number of Cases	% of Total
CS&E [Computer Science and Engineering]	66	12.2%
DESIGN [Industrial, Interior, and Visual Communication Design]	2	0.4%
ECE [Electrical and Computer Engineering]	6	1.1%
ECON [Economics]	3	0.6%
EDU P&L [Education: Educational Policy and Leadership]	4	0.7%
EDU PAES [Education: Physical Activity and Education Services]	16	3.0%
EEOB [Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology]	2	0.4%
ENGINEER [Engineering]	34	6.3%
ENGLISH	25	4.6%
FRENCH	1	0.2%
GEN CHEM [General Studies: Chemistry]	2	0.4%
GEN HUM [General Studies: Humanities]	1	0.2%
GEOG [Geography]	7	1.3%
GERMAN	2	0.4%
HIST ART [History of Art]	2	0.4%
HISTORY	53	9.8%
HSMP [Health Services: Management and Policy]	1	0.2%
HUMN NTR [Human Nutrition and Food Management]	2	0.4%
IBGP [Integrated Biomedical Science Graduate Program]	2	0.4%
IND ENG [Industrial and Systems Engineering]	9	1.7%
JCOM [Journalism and Communication]	10	1.9%
LINGUIST [Linguistics]	3	0.6%
MATH [Mathematics]	7	1.3%
MBA [Masters of Business Administration]	3	0.6%

Course (Department)	Number of Cases	% of Total
MECH ENG [Mechanical Engineering]	13	2.4%
MED TECH [Medical Technology]	1	0.2%
MOL GEN [Molecular Genetics]	1	0.2%
MUSIC	7	1.3%
NAT RES [Natural Resources]	1	0.2%
NURSING	1	0.2%
OTHER (cases involving students who were not enrolled in a formal course)	9	1.7%
PHARMACY	13	2.4%
PHILOS [Philosophy]	4	0.7%
PHYSICS	5	0.9%
POLIT SC [Political Science]	17	3.2%
PSYCH [Psychology]	5	0.9%
RURL SOC [Rural Sociology]	1	0.2%
SBS COLL [Social and Behavioral Sciences, College of]	2	0.4%
SOC WORK [Social Work]	2	0.4%
SOCIOL [Sociology]	16	3.0%
SPANISH	6	1.1%
STAT [Statistics]	33	6.1%
THEATRE	7	1.3%
USAS [Undergraduate Student Academic Services]	6	1.1%
WOM STDS [Women's Studies]	4	0.7%
YIDDISH	4	0.7%
TOTALS	539	100.0%

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

Nearly 45% of the cases resolved by COAM during the past year were the result of allegations of misconduct in 100-level courses. Progressively fewer cases resulted from allegations in progressively higher-level courses (**Table 7**).

Table 7.
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Distribution of Cases Based on Course Level (Number)
2004-2005 Academic Year

(N/A in the following table refers to those cases in which the alleged academic misconduct did not take place while the student was enrolled in a formal course.)

Course Level	Cases	% of Total
000	3	0.6%
100	241	44.7%
200	115	21.3%
300	39	7.2%
400	29	5.4%
500	50	9.3%
600	23	4.3%
700	18	3.3%
800	9	1.7%
900	1	0.2%
N/A	11	2.0%
Totals	539	100.0%

Although 100-level courses accounted for nearly 45% of the allegations of academic misconduct, the “rate” of allegations (i.e., the number of cases based on the total numbers of students enrolled) was actually highest in 200-level courses (**Figure 2**).

Figure 2.
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Distribution of Cases Based on Course Level and Enrollment
2004-2005 Academic Year

(For each course-level, the total number of cases for that level was divided by the total enrollment of all courses for that level, and the resulting number was multiplied by 1000. Enrollment data for Autumn Quarter, 2004, were obtained from the Registrar's Office and used for these calculations.)

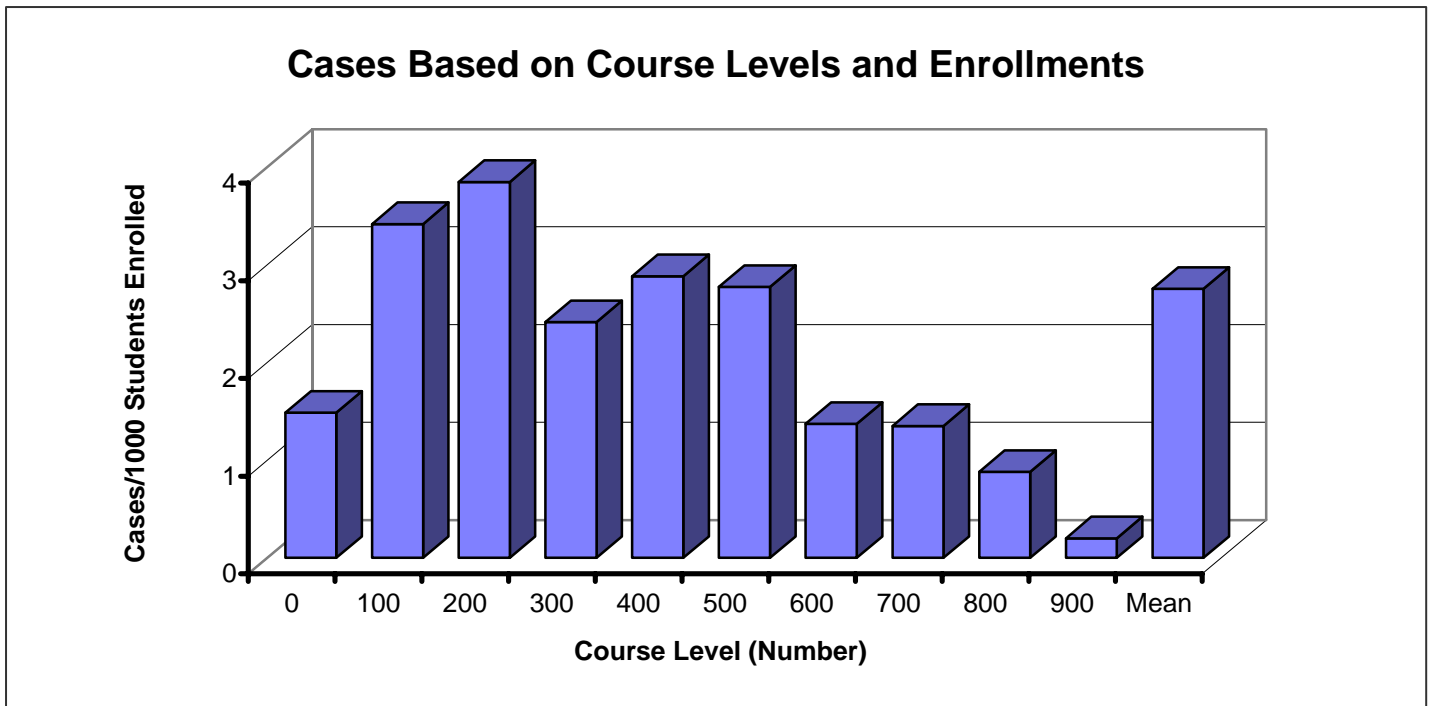


Table 8 summarizes the cases resolved for undergraduate students only (i.e., ranks 1 through 4). The data demonstrate that students in progressively higher class ranks tended to be charged with academic misconduct in progressively higher level courses. For example, almost all cases involving rank 1 students occurred in 100 and 200-level courses (114 of 123 cases = 84%), while nearly half of the cases involving rank 4 students occurred in courses at the 400-level and above (82 of 173 cases = 47%).

Table 8.
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Distribution of Cases Based on Student Rank and Course Level
2004-2005 Academic Year

(The following table includes data for only ranks 1, 2, 3, and 4 students who were charged with academic misconduct in a formal course. Thus, the data in this table represent 506 of the 539 total cases resolved during the past academic year.)

Level	Class Rank				Totals
	1	2	3	4	
000	2	0	0	1	3
100	78	75	40	47	240
200	36	33	24	20	113
300	3	5	8	23	39
400	3	2	5	20	30
500	1	3	8	37	49
600	0	0	1	20	21
700	0	4	2	5	11
Totals	123	122	88	173	506

The data in **Table 8** also show that more cases involved rank 4 students (173) than any other rank, and a similar trend was noted when the data were calculated as rates (i.e., calculated on the basis of the number of students enrollment for each class rank). As shown in **Figure 3**, the highest rate of cases involved rank 4 students and the lowest rate of cases involved rank 3 students.

**Figure 3.
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Distribution of Cases for Undergraduate Students
Based on Class Rank and Enrollment.
2004-2005 Academic Year.**

(For this Figure, the number of cases for each rank [see Table 8] was divided by the total enrollment for that rank and then multiplied by 1000. The “All Ranks” bar represents the mean value for ranks 1 through 4. Enrollment figures for each rank were obtained from “Highlights of Fifteenth Day Enrollment for the Autumn Quarter, 2004,” which was prepared by the Registrar’s Office).

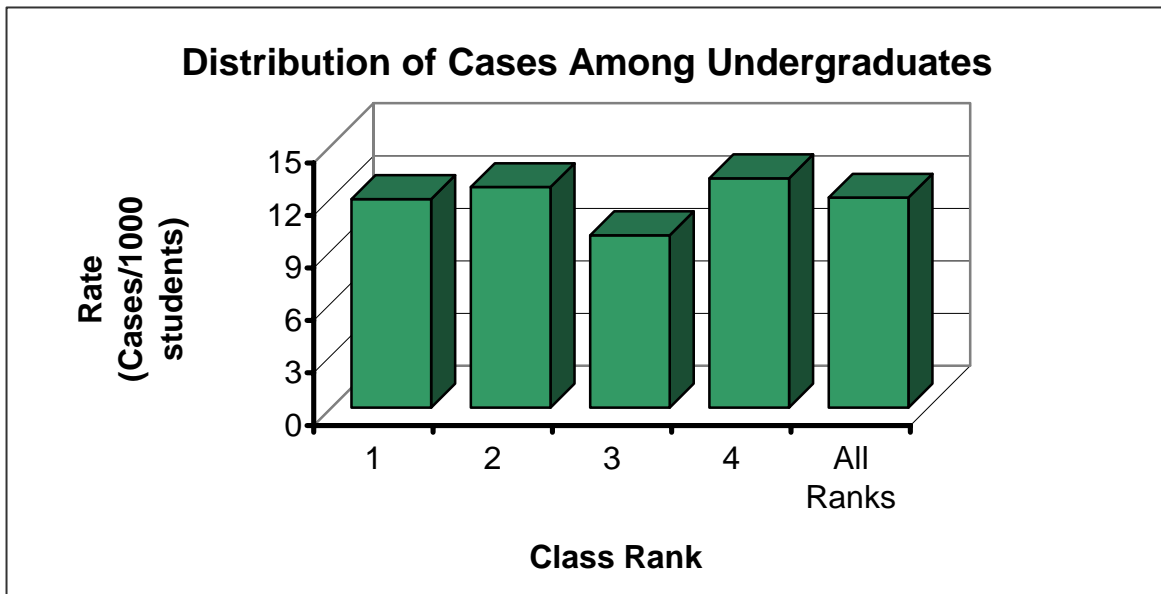
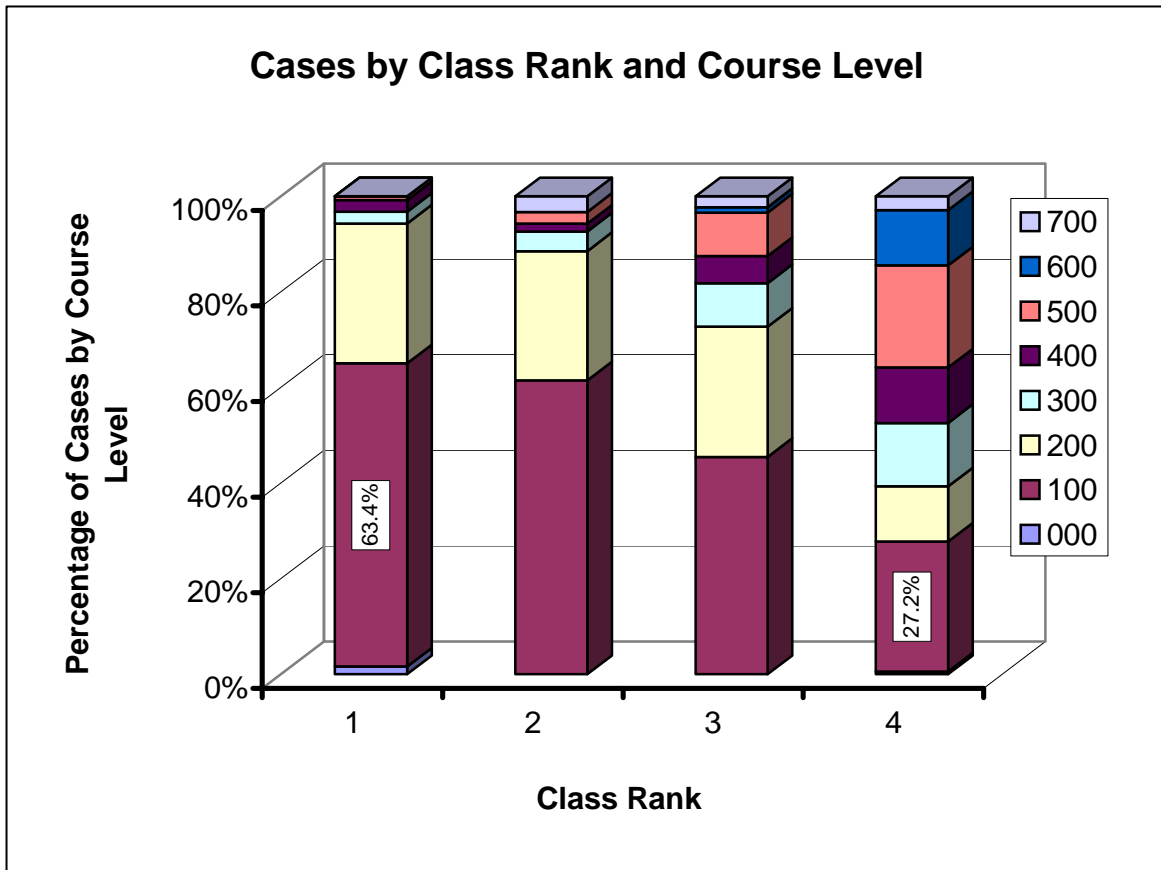


Figure 4 summarizes the distribution of cases among different class ranks and course levels. This figure demonstrates clearly that a majority of allegations involving rank 1 occurred in 100-level (63.4%) courses. Also notable is the observation that 100-level courses accounted for the highest percentage of academic misconduct cases involving rank 4 students (27.2%).

Figure 4.
Distribution of Cases by Course Level and Student's Class Rank
2004-2005 Academic Year

(For this Figure, the data in **Table 8** for each course level within each class rank were calculated as a percentage of the total cases for that class rank, and the data for the course levels within each class rank were plotted as cumulative percentages.)



VI. Summary of Disciplinary and Grade Sanctions

When COAM finds that a student has violated the University's *Code of Student Conduct*, COAM imposes sanctions. The sanction always includes a disciplinary component, and, in a majority of cases, the sanction also includes a grade-related component.

The disciplinary sanctions imposed by COAM and the numbers of cases involved are summarized in **Table 9**. As these data demonstrate, most students found in violation of the *Code of Student Conduct* received a sanction of “disciplinary probation.”

Table 9.
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Summary of Disciplinary Sanctions
2004-2005 Academic Year

(Of the 539 cases heard during the 2004-2005 Academic Year, 458 resulted in a finding of “In Violation,” and only these resulted in a disciplinary sanction.)

Disciplinary Sanction	Number of Cases	% of Cases
Formal reprimand	14	3.1%
Disciplinary probation (range = 1 quarter to “until graduation”)	398	86.9%
Suspension (range = 1 to 4 quarters)	40	8.7%
Dismissal	6	1.3%
Totals	458	100.0%

The grade sanctions imposed by COAM and the numbers of cases involved are summarized in **Table 10**. As these data demonstrate, most students found “in violation” of the University’s *Code of Student Conduct* fail the course in which the misconduct occurred.

Table 10.
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Summary of Grade Sanctions
2004-2005 Academic Year

(Of the 539 cases heard during the 2004-2005 Academic Year, 458 resulted in a finding of "In Violation." In 20 of these cases, no grade sanction was authorized for the following reasons: a grade sanction was not applicable (10 cases); the panel or hearing officer did not authorize a grade sanction (3 cases); the student withdrew from the course prior to resolving the allegations (7 cases).

Grade Sanction	Number of Cases	% of Cases
None	20	4.4%
Authorization for a "0" on the assignment	28	6.1%
Authorization for a "0" on the assignment and then a reduction in the student's final grade by one full letter grade	72	15.7%
Authorization for a final grade of "E" in the course	327	71.4%
Other	11	2.4%
Totals	458	100.0%

As noted above, when a student is found "in violation" of the University's *Code of Student Conduct*, COAM imposes both disciplinary and grade-related sanctions. Thus, by using various combinations of these two sanctions, COAM can impose sanctions that are commensurate with the severity of the academic misconduct. **Table 11** contains a summary of all of the disciplinary and grade-related sanctions imposed by COAM during the previous year.

**Table 11.
Committee on Academic Misconduct
Disciplinary and Grade Sanctions, Combined Summary
2004-2005 Academic Year**

Disciplinary Sanction	Grade Sanction	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank M	Rank P	Other Ranks	Totals
Formal Reprimand	None (student withdrew)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Reduce grade on assignment by one full letter grade	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
	"0" on assignment	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	7
	"0" on assignment and a further reduction in the final course grade by one full letter grade	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
Subtotals									
		5	5	1	3	0	0	0	14
Disciplinary Probation (2 Quarters)	None (no recommendation)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	"0" on assignment	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

Disciplinary Sanction	Grade Sanction	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank M	Rank P	Other Ranks	Totals
	Reduction in the final course grade by one full letter grade	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	"0" on assignment and a further reduction in the final course grade by one full letter grade	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	"E" in course	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Subtotals									
		8	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Disciplinary Probation (3 Quarters)									
	None (student withdrew)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	None (not applicable)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	"0" on assignment	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
	Reduction in the final course grade by one full letter grade	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	"0" on assignment and a further reduction in the final course grade by one full letter grade	22	5	0	0	0	0	0	27
	"D" in the course	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	"E" in course	8	10	7	2	0	0	0	27

Disciplinary Sanction	Grade Sanction	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank M	Rank P	Other Ranks	Totals
Subtotals									
		34	18	9	2	0	0	0	63
Disciplinary Probation (4 Quarters)									
	None (not applicable)	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
	None (student withdrew)	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
	Reduce grade on examination by one full letter grade	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	"0" on assignment	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	6
	"0" on assignment and a further reduction in the final course grade by one full letter grade	15	14	3	0	0	0	0	32
	"D" in course	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	"E" in course	29	50	38	6	0	0	3	126
Subtotals									
		46	71	42	8	0	0	4	171
Disciplinary Probation (5 Quarters)									
	"E" in course	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Subtotals									
		0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

Disciplinary Sanction	Grade Sanction	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank M	Rank P	Other Ranks	Totals
Disciplinary Probation (until graduation)	None (no recommendation)	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
	None (not applicable)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	None (student withdrew)	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
	"E" on assignment	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	"0" on assignment	0	0	2	8	0	0	0	10
	"0" on assignment and a further reduction in the final course grade by one full letter grade	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	4
	"D" in course	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	"E" in course	6	0	13	112	5	1	0	154
Subtotals									
		6	2	18	123	5	1	0	154
Suspension (1 Quarter)									
Suspension (1 Quarter)	Failure of Master's Examination	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	"E" in the course	0	1	1	7	2	1	0	12
Subtotals									
		0	1	1	7	2	2	0	13
Suspension (2 Quarters)									
Suspension (2 Quarters)	None (not applicable)	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
	"E" in the course	3	4	1	5	0	1	0	14

Disciplinary Sanction	Grade Sanction	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank M	Rank P	Other Ranks	Totals
Subtotals		3	4	1	5	0	3	0	16
Suspension (3 Quarters)	None (not applicable)	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
	"E" in the course	0	1	2	2	1	1	0	7
Subtotals		0	1	3	4	1	1	0	10
Suspension (4 Quarters)	"E" in the course	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Subtotals		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Dismissal	None (not applicable)	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
	"E" in the course	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	4
Subtotals		0	0	2	2	1	1	0	6
Total "In Violation"									
Total "Not in Violation"		21	20	14	19	6	1	0	81

Disciplinary Sanction	Grade Sanction	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3	Rank 4	Rank M	Rank P	Other Ranks	Totals
Total Cases		123	123	91	174	15	9	4	539