

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

DEAN OF STUDENTS
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Date: Fall 2020

To: All WPI Faculty, Staff and Students

From: Gregory Snoddy, Dean of Students & Padraig O Cathain, CASL Chair

Re: Academic Dishonesty Report for 2019-2020 (E2, A, B, C, D, E1)

Each year, to support the faculty policy on academic honesty, the Dean of Students Office tabulates data for reported cases of academic dishonesty. This report includes data on specific academic dishonesty at WPI for the 2019-2020 academic year and general academic dishonesty cases over the past five years.

The [Faculty Guide to Academic Integrity at WPI](#) and the [Student Guide to Academic Integrity at WPI](#) are available **through these hyperlinks**. These brochures are designed to remind faculty, staff, and students about the academic honesty policy and to explain WPI's procedure for adjudicating academic dishonesty cases.

As a reminder, the four constructs of Academic Dishonesty referenced in this report include:

PLAGIARISM:

- ✚ Taking credit for work that is not yours (even if you worked closely with the owner).
- ✚ Inaccurately or inadequately citing sources.
- ✚ Paraphrasing (rewording other people's ideas) without proper citation.

FABRICATION:

- ✚ Inventing or changing laboratory data and/or research results.
- ✚ Altering grades or other official records.
- ✚ Citing a source that was not used.
- ✚ Changing exam solutions after grading.

CHEATING:

- ✚ Submitting purchased work or any academic work that isn't yours.
- ✚ Using unauthorized materials (cheat sheets, programmed calculators, etc.).
- ✚ Copying another student's work.
- ✚ Unauthorized communication during an exam.

FACILITATION:

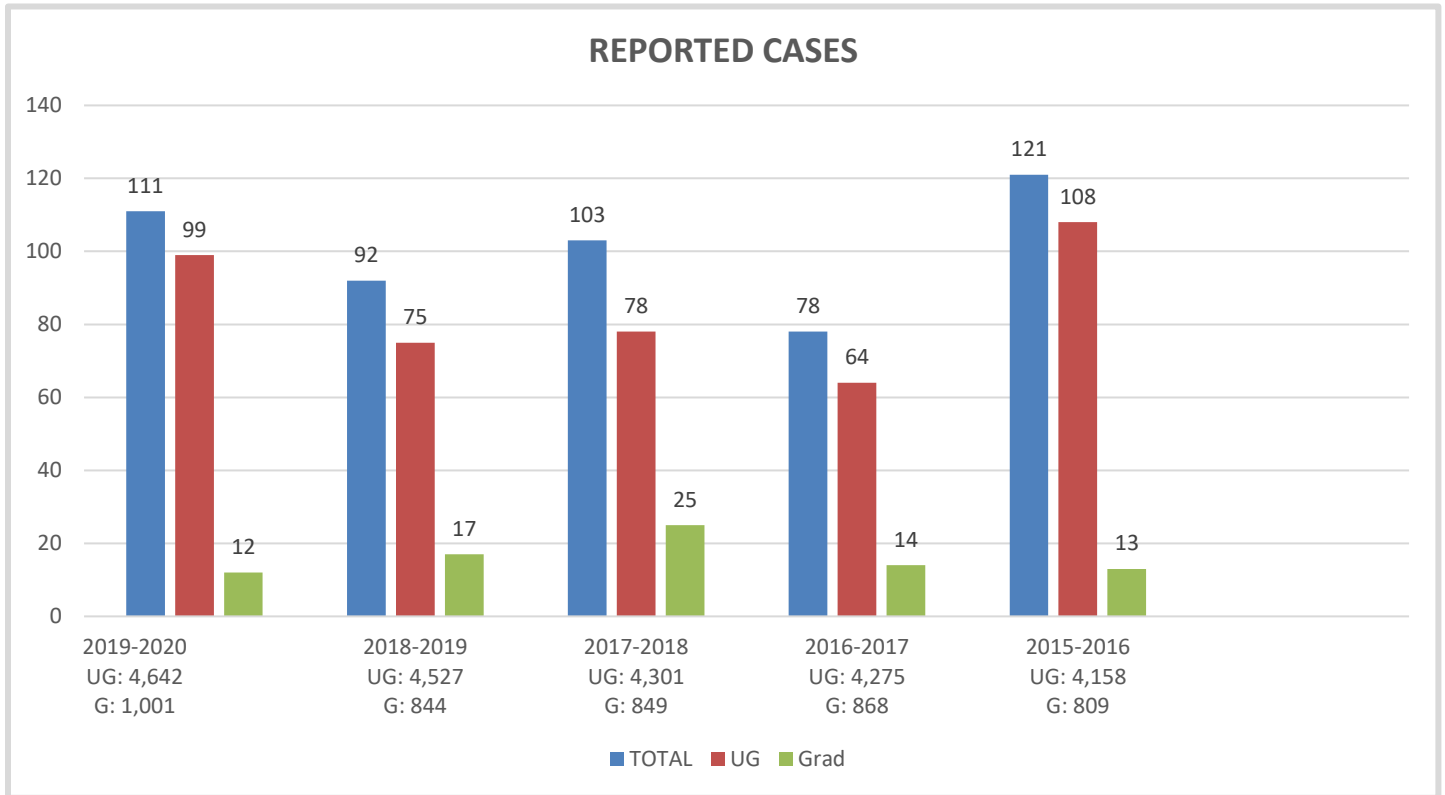
- ✚ Sharing test, homework, or lab information with other students.
- ✚ Doing work for other students (homework, labs, tests, etc.).
- ✚ Allowing other students to see or copy your work, even from past assignments.
- ✚ Assisting in any act of academic dishonesty of another student.

A REVIEW OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY CASES FOR 2019-2020

Academic dishonesty continues to be the most frequent violation of WPI’s Code of Conduct for cases adjudicated through the Dean of Students Office. In 2019-2020, there were **111 suspected cases** reported to the Dean of Students Office. (**Table 1**)

Table 1

Number of Potential Academic Dishonesty Cases Initially Reported to the Dean of Students Office



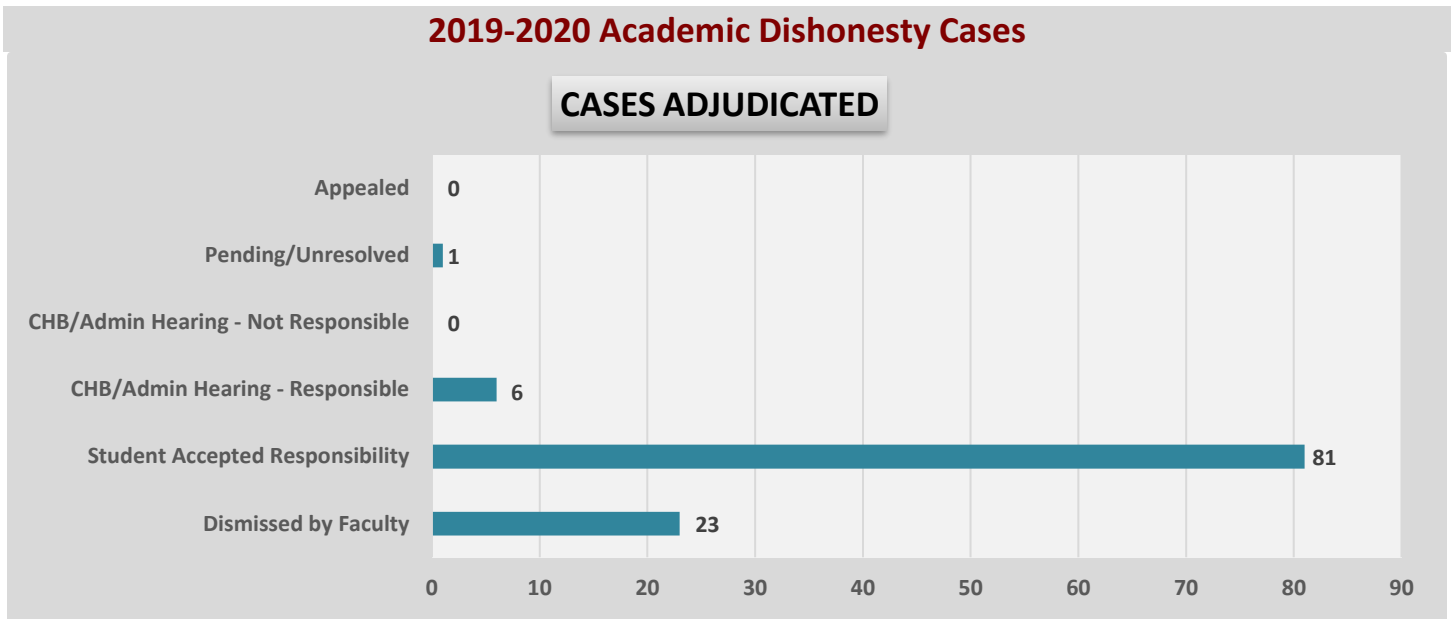
Of the 111 cases reported to the Dean of Students Office in the past year, 81 were resolved by faculty at the departmental level, using the Departmental Agreement template, as the students admitted responsibility for the violation and accepted the proposed academic penalty. 23 cases were dismissed by faculty upon further investigation and discussion with the students. There remains 1 unresolved case.

The Campus Hearing Board (CHB) or Administrative Hearing Officer (for non-matriculated students) heard 6 cases of alleged academic dishonesty, of which all 6 were found “Responsible”. None of these cases were appealed.

For additional detail, inquiries during the academic year (E-2, 2019 – E-1, 2020) were as follows:

E-2 Term, 2019: 1	B-Term 2019: 12	D-Term 2020: 40
A-Term 2019: 19	C-Term 2020: 36	E-1 Term 2020: 3

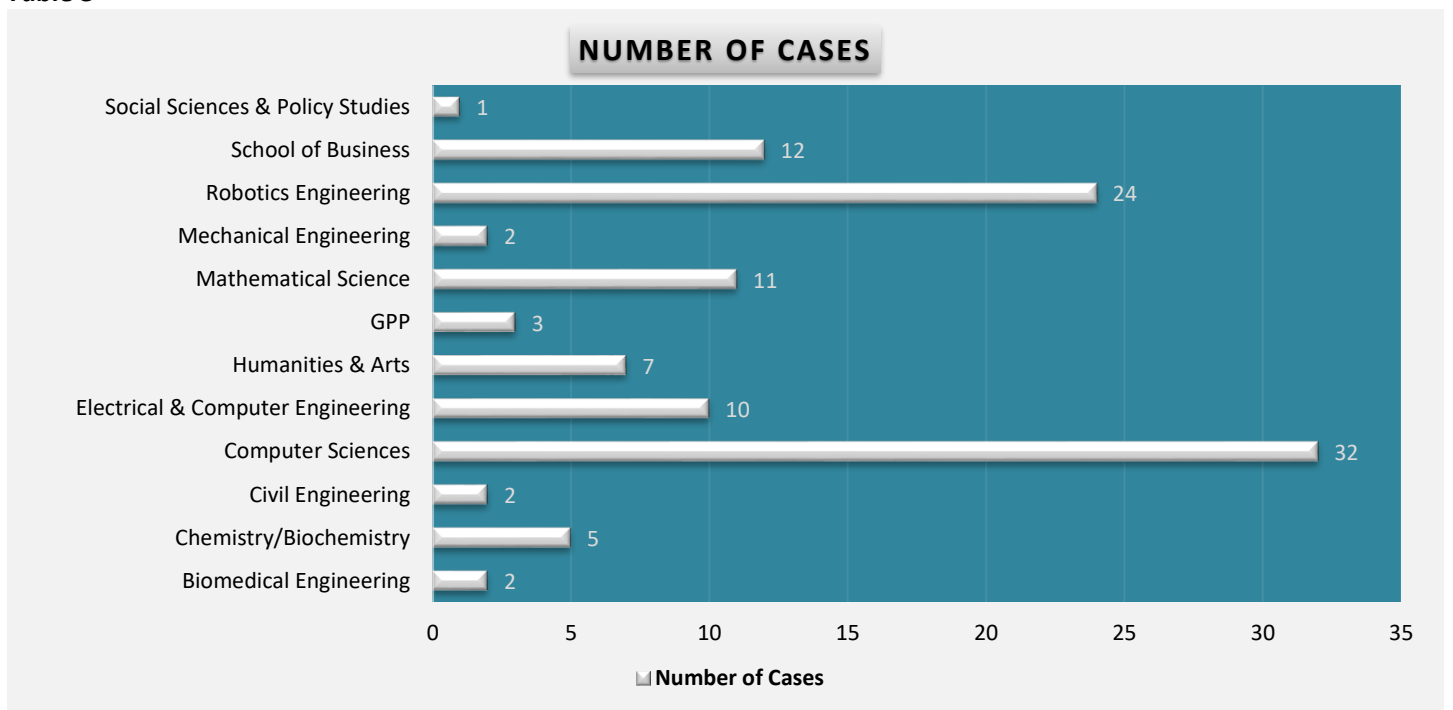
Table 2



2019-2020 Academic Dishonesty Cases Initially Reported by Academic Departments

Table 3 represents academic departments that made an academic integrity inquiry, led by Computer Sciences (32) followed by Robotics Engineering (24).

Table 3



Historical Trends

Table 4 represents the general outcome of **academic dishonesty cases over the past 5 years**. Most “Responsible” findings occur through the Faculty Departmental Agreement process. Academic dishonesty cases by department with responsible findings for the past five years can be found in **Table 5**.

Table 4

Resolution of Academic Dishonesty Cases Reported 2015-2016 through 2019-2020

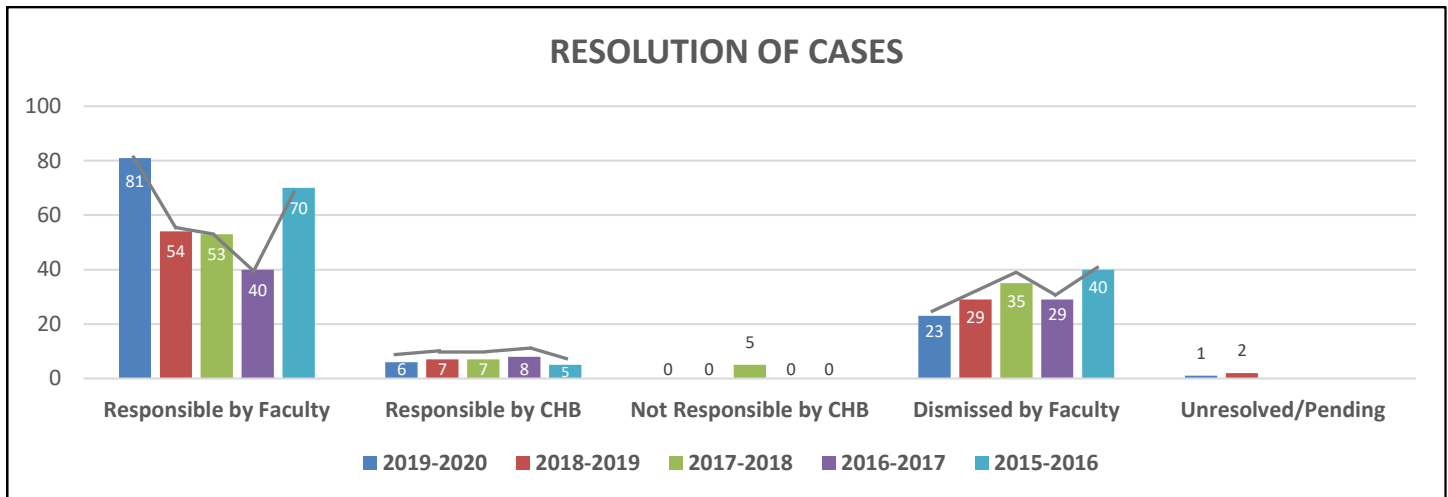
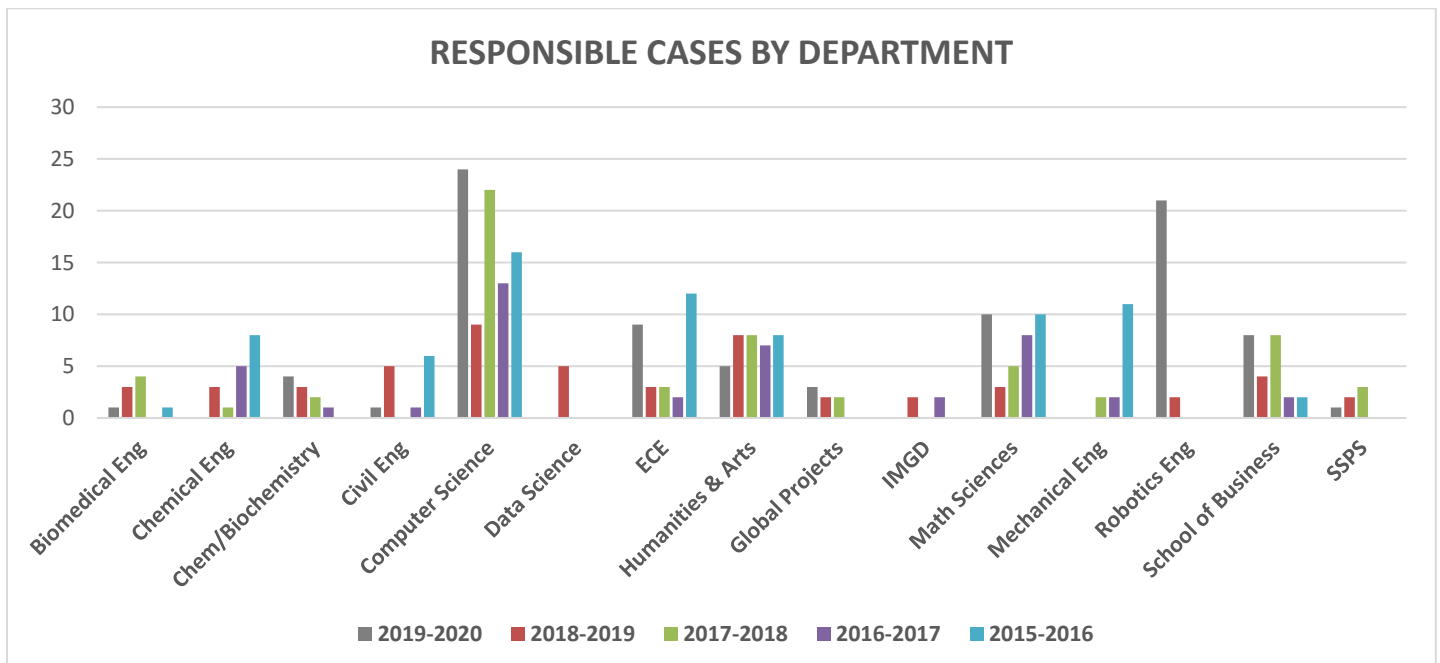


Table 5

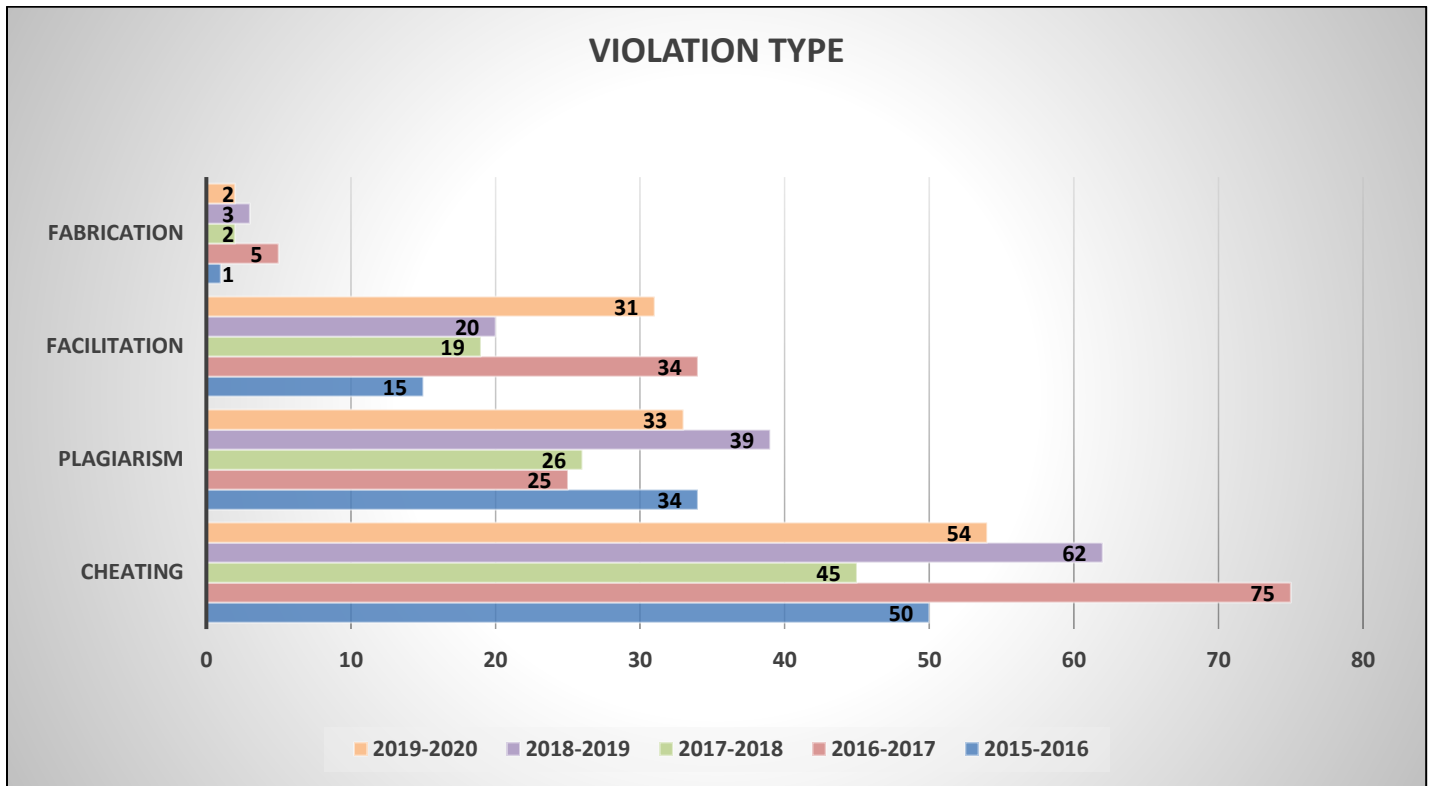
‘Responsible’ Academic Dishonesty Cases by Department 2015-2016 through 2019-2020



Types of academic dishonesty over the past five years are displayed in *Table 6*.

Table 6

Responsible Findings by Violation Type 2015-2016 through 2019-2020



In some cases, students may have been found responsible for more than one type of violation in a single incident, which is why the number of cases may be higher than the total numbers reported in **Table 4.*

Sanctions Imposed are displayed in **Table 7**.

WPI faculty have the discretion to sanction students who accept responsibility for violating the Academic Honesty Policy to a penalty not to exceed an NR/F for the course. The CHB may sanction a student to a penalty of up to and including suspension or expulsion from WPI. The CHB can only make recommendations to the faculty member regarding any academic penalty for the student.

Note: Some students received multiple sanctions for the same incident, thus the total number of sanctions exceeds the total number of incidents.

Table 7

2019-2020 Sanctions for Academic Dishonesty Violations

59	"0" for assignment/lab/exam
21	"NR" for course
2	"F" for course
3	CHB Restrictions imposed
0	Class visit/presentation
0	Community service
0	Counseling referral
0	Disciplinary expulsion
2	Disciplinary probation
0	Disciplinary suspension
4	Disciplinary warning
0	Formal written apology
0	Ineligible to hold TA position
0	Ineligible to register for online courses
9	Lowered letter grade for course
0	Meet with the professor/case officer
0	No academic credit
0	No grade penalty
6	Online Academic Integrity Program
0	Restriction from Project Center travel
0	Revise paper
1	Written assignment

Suggestions for Faculty and Students for Remote or Hybrid Classes

Faculty Suggestions	Student Suggestions
Have canvas quizzes/exams be more difficult, yet make them open note/open book. Students will need to know the material if they only have a certain allotted time.	Learn the material, so that during a timed test/quiz, you don't have to go searching through a book for the correct answer or formula. Make sure you study/start projects in advance so you can ask for help.
Clearly explain expectations on the first day of class and on any test/quiz days. Identify exact parameters of what is allowed (i.e. notes, calculators, working with a partner, etc).	Be aware that each professor may have different expectations of what is permitted in their specific class. Rule #1: Ask whether you can work with someone, or use your notes, etc. <u>before</u> you do so!
Talk about the consequences of academic dishonesty for your course (0 grade on assignment, NR entire course).	Understanding that knowing the material is more important than getting an A and cheating your way to the top.
Create mock quizzes or exams to allow students to understand the format of the exam or quiz.	Use all your resources before exam day (office hours, practice problems) so you are prepared. Attend MASH sessions, one-on-one tutoring through the Academic Resource Center, or the Writing Center to get coursework assistance.
Stay consistent with the typical class workload, whether in-class learning or Remote/Hybrid. Don't assume that students have "more time", due to classes/learning occurring via Zoom.	If you have an unexpected issue that impacts your ability to complete an assignment or exam, contact your professor to explain the situation. Your faculty may be able to offer scheduling flexibility if they have advance notice...yet don't rely on this.
As an alternative to Honorlock, during online exams that are closed book, require students to be on zoom with their camera and mic on so that TA's can monitor. Students can turn their volume off, so they do not hear any distractions, but keep their mic on so the TA/faculty member can see each student and their testing environment.	Don't be hesitant to ask your faculty about using Honorlock and how to leverage the software for your academic benefit.
Altering exams and quizzes from years past is a good way to make sure the students can formulate their own solutions to problems without using past exams to cheat.	While it is good to have someone else read your papers, don't share your homework, exams, or papers. If you are permitted to work with someone else on an assignment, make sure everyone's names are on the assignment.
Use strategies, such as different colored exams, or reposition questions on different versions of exams to lessen the risk of academic dishonesty.	Understand that your faculty will disseminate different exams/quizzes to students....so know your material!