

WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

DEAN OF STUDENTS
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Date: Fall 2025
To: All WPI Faculty, Staff and Students
From: Dean of Students Staff
Re: Academic Dishonesty Report for 2024-2025 (E2, A, B, C, D, E1)

The Dean of Students Office tabulates data for reported cases of academic dishonesty annually to support the faculty policy on academic integrity. The following report includes data for academic integrity cases at WPI from 2024-2025 academic year including cases tied to the previous five years.

While the following serves as a framing device, we welcome all faculty and community members to review the updated [Academic Integrity Policy](#) for the 2025-2026 Academic Year which includes updated definitions of allegations, clarity of instructor of record, and reframing academic integrity at the core of the educational experience. To align with the updated policy, references to assist in the academic year ahead have been adjusted along with the creation of new resources.

The [Faculty Guide to Academic Integrity at WPI](#) is an updated brochure designed to remind faculty and staff about the academic integrity policy and to explain WPI's procedure for adjudicating academic integrity cases.

For students, two videos were created to support student's education of the Student Code of Conduct as well as the Academic Integrity process:

- [Academic Integrity at WPI](#)
- [What is the Student Code of Conduct](#)

In cases where there is a question about an inquiry, student status, or question about a current academic integrity case, please email academicintegrity@wpi.edu.

As a reminder, the four constructs of academic dishonesty referenced in this report include the definitions tied to the 2024-2025 Academic Integrity

Policy and do not reflect the changes approved by the Faculty in Spring of 2025, to take effect in Fall 2025, for the interest of this report. These definitions include:

PLAGIARISM

- Taking credit for others' work.
- 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 others' academic work.
- 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 work, even from past assignments.
- Assisting in any act of academic dishonesty of another student.

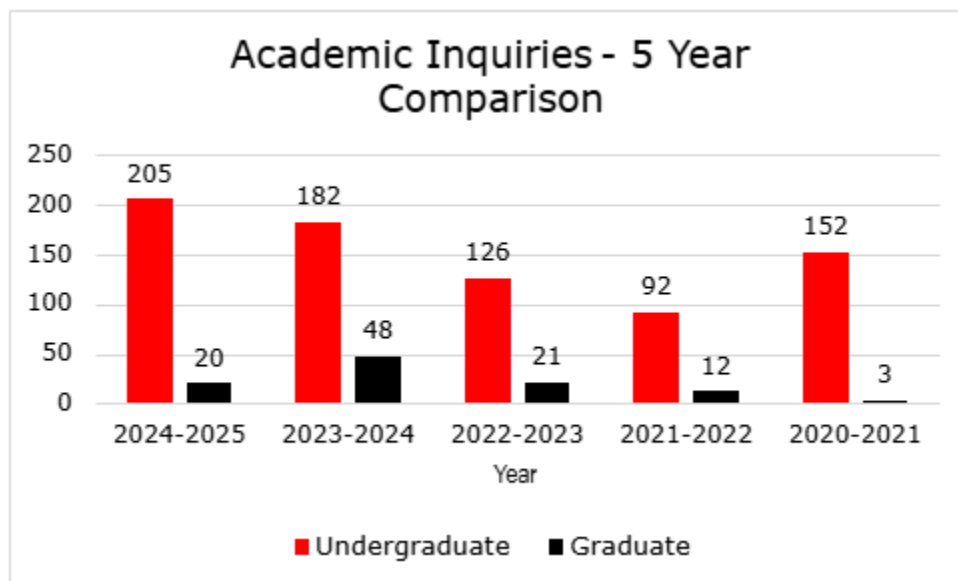
If you have a question about a student involved in a possible academic integrity violation, about the resolution process, or student rights as a part of this policy, please email academicintegrity@wpi.edu.



Academic Integrity Report 2024-2025

Academic integrity continues to be the most frequent violation of WPI’s Code of Conduct for cases adjudicated through the Dean of Students Office. In 2024-2025, there were **225 faculty inquiries for suspected cases** reported to the Dean of Students Office (**Chart 1**), which was comparable to the prior year (230).

Chart 1. Academic Inquiries – 5 Year Comparison



Of the **225** total inquiries reported to the Dean of Students Office in the past year:

- 122 were resolved by faculty at the departmental level, using the departmental agreement, as the students admitted responsibility for the violation and accepted the proposed academic penalty.
- 87 cases were dismissed by faculty upon further investigation and discussion with the students.
- Six (6) cases are currently pending or unresolved at the time of this report due to pending conversations tied to allegations and/or pending hearing.

The Campus Hearing Board (CHB) or Administrative Hearing Officer (for non-matriculated students) heard 10 cases of alleged academic dishonesty, of which:

- Nine (9) were found "Responsible;" and
- One (1) was found "Not Responsible."
- Two (2) of these cases were appealed with the decision sustained.

For additional detail, inquiries about possible academic integrity cases during the academic year (E-2 2024 – E-1 2025) were as follows:

E-2 Term 2024:	5	B-Term 2024:	35	D-Term 2025:	70
A-Term 2024:	40	C-Term 2025:	72	E-1 Term 2025:	3

Chart 2 represents the final status of academic integrity inquiries. The majority of which led to a departmental agreement, as a resolution option available for first time offenses.

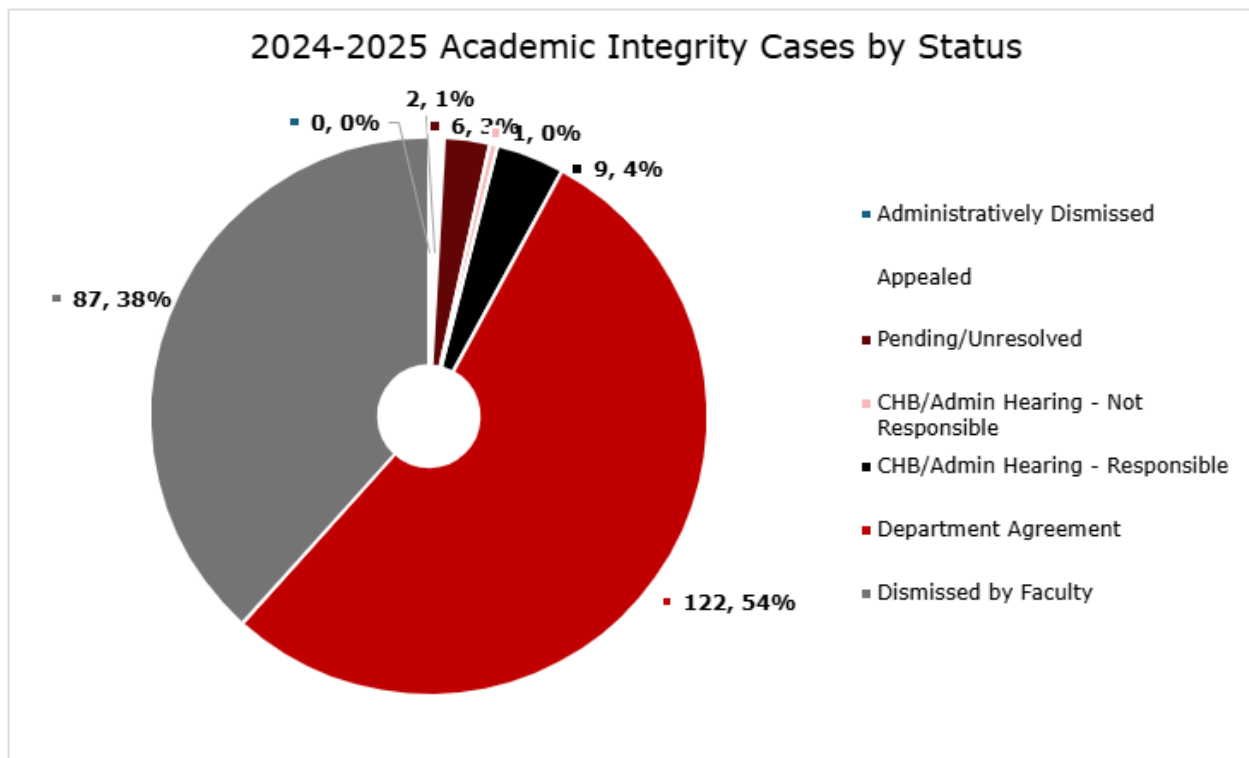
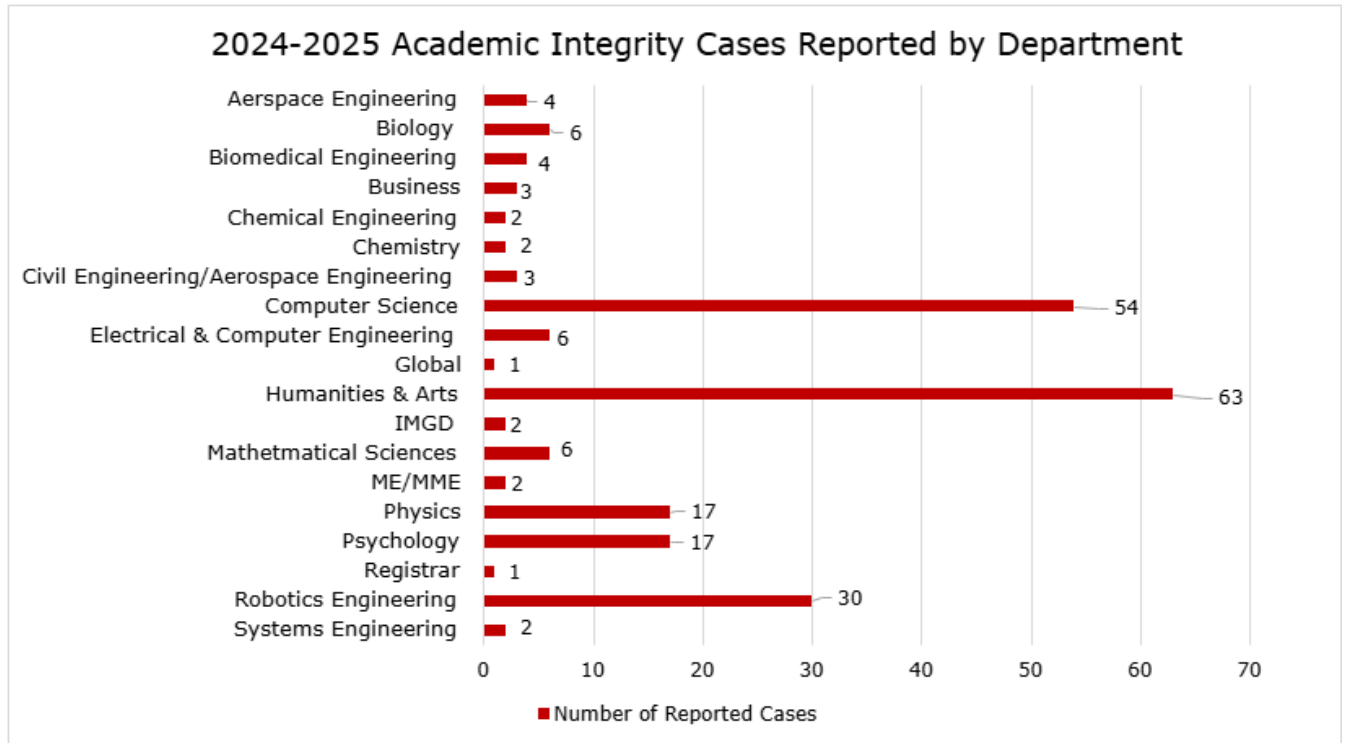


Chart 3 represents academic departments that made an academic integrity inquiry, led by Humanities and Arts (63), followed by Computer Science (54) and Robotics (30).



Note: The Registrar is able to bring forward charges of academic dishonesty tied to fabrication or falsification of final grades.

Historical Trends

Chart 4 represents the general outcome of **academic dishonesty cases over the past 5 years** at the time each year’s report was published. 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 **Chart 5**.

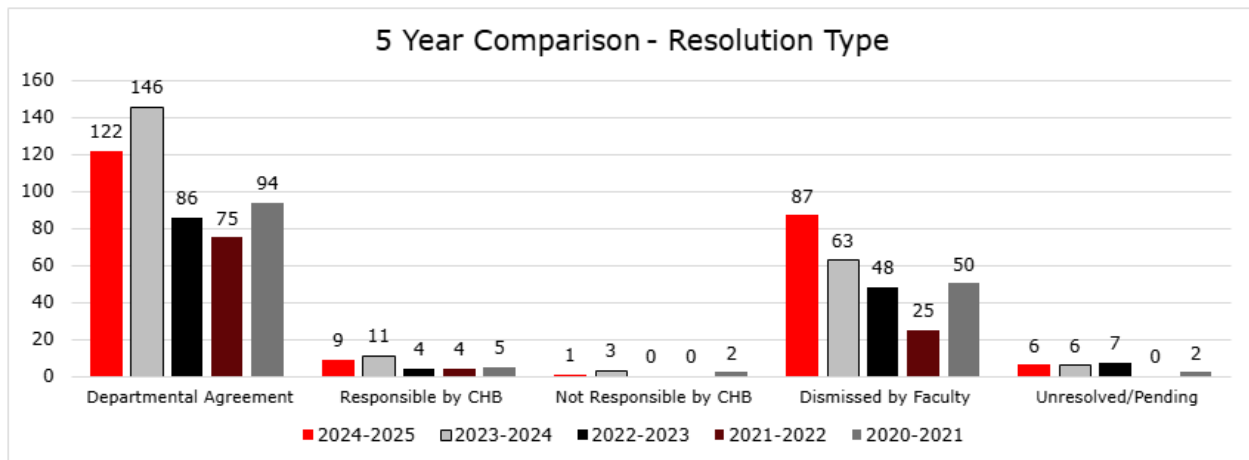


Chart 5 represents a five-year comparison of responsible academic integrity cases by department.

Department	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Aerospace	0	0	0	0	3
Biology/Biotechnology	0	0	0	0	3
Biomedical Engineering	0	2	0	0	1
Chemical Engineering	4	0	0	0	2
Chemistry/Biochemistry	2	5	6	0	2
Civil, Environmental & Architectural	0	2	0	3	1
Computer/Data Science	43	45	35	70	39
Electrical and Computer Engineering	4	2	8	9	2
Fire Protection	0	0	0	0	0
Humanities and Arts	14	7	19	25	36
Integrative & Global Studies	1	3	1	1	1
Interactive Media & Game Development	1	0	5	2	2
Math Sciences	10	3	3	6	2
Materials Science and Engineering	0	0	0	0	3
Mechanical Engineering	7	0	0	1	1
Physical Education, Recreation, & Athletics	0	0	0	0	0
Physics	1	1	4	3	2
Robotics Engineering	0	3	5	32	12
School of Business	2	1	0	4	2
Social Science & Policy Studies	2	0	0	0	17
Systems Engineering	0	0	0	0	2
Registrar	0	0	0	0	1

Note: The Registrar is able to bring forward charges of academic dishonesty tied to fabrication or falsification of final grades.

Inquiries and Findings by School are displayed in **Charts 6.1 through 6.4**.

Chart 6.1 The Business School

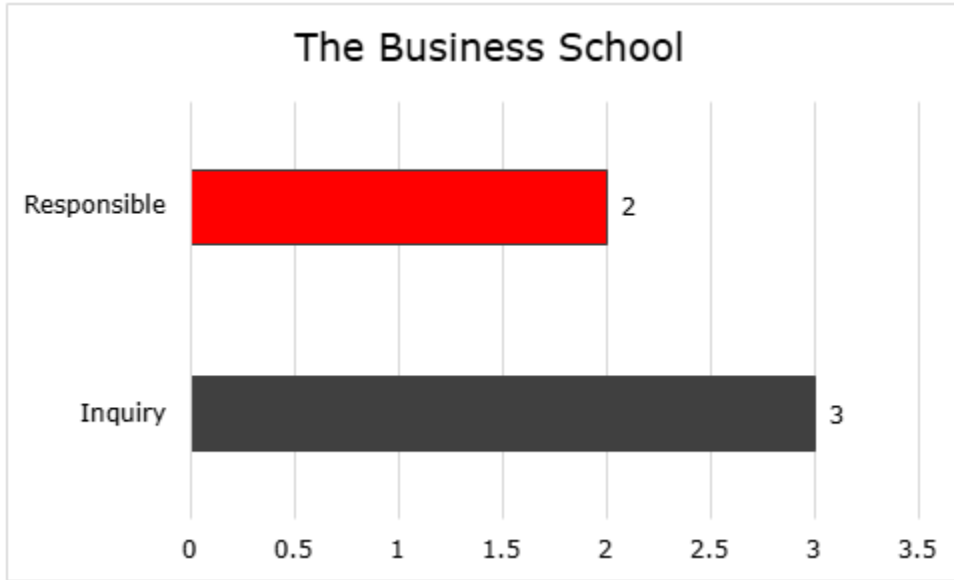


Chart 6.2 The School of Engineering

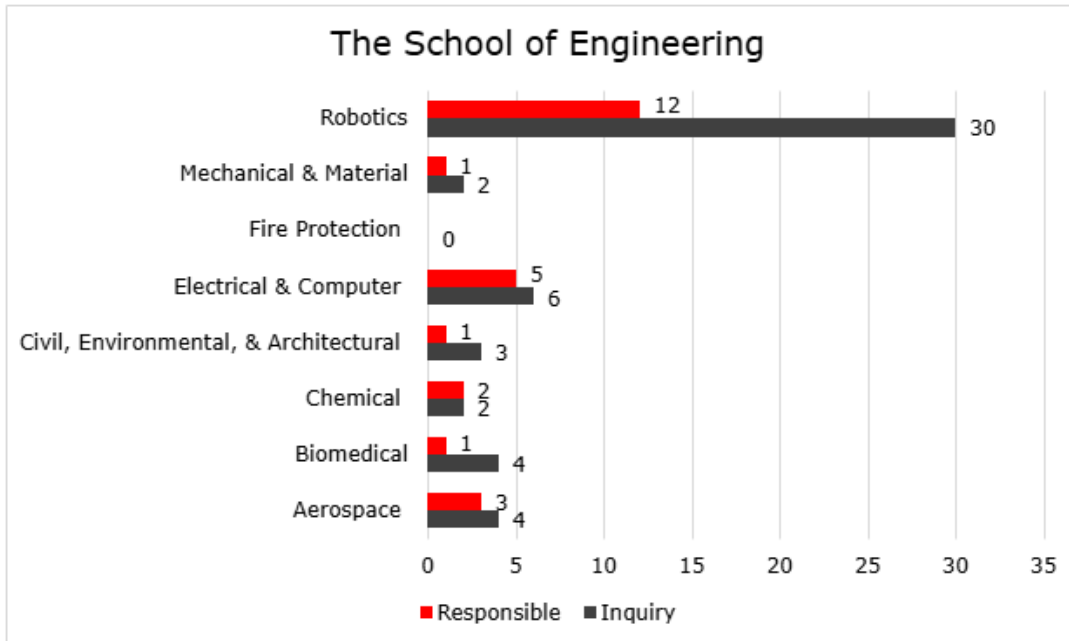


Chart 6.3 The School of Arts & Sciences

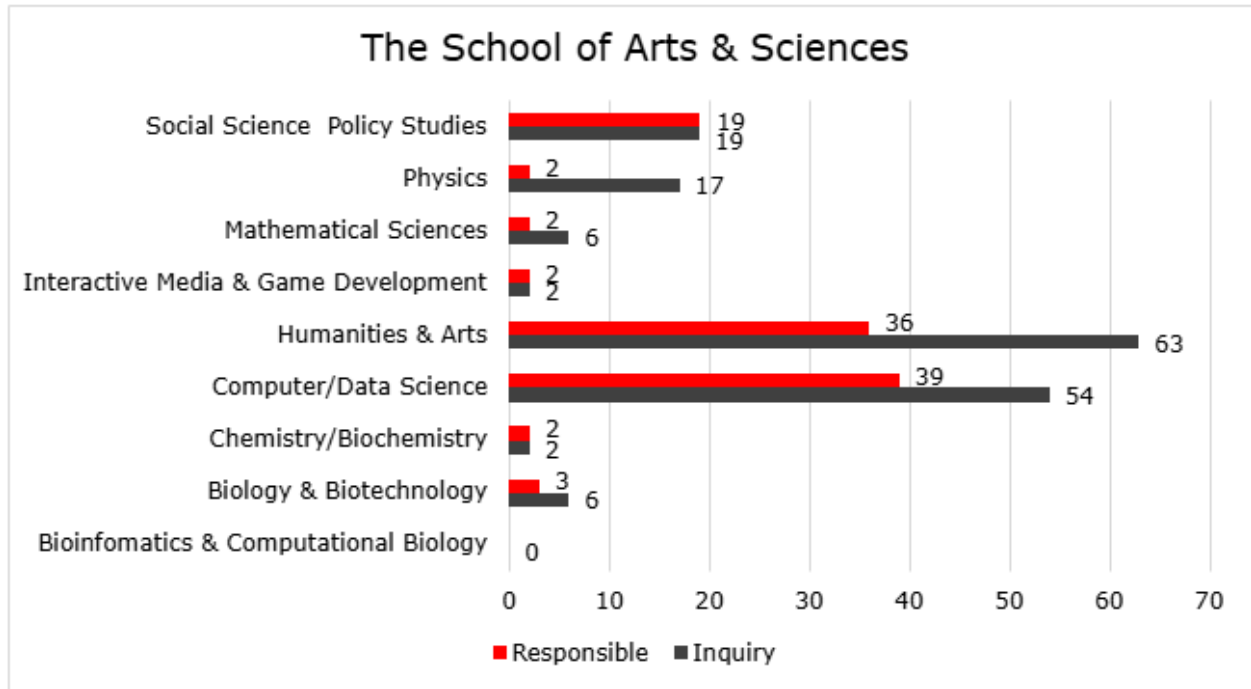


Chart 6.4 The Global School

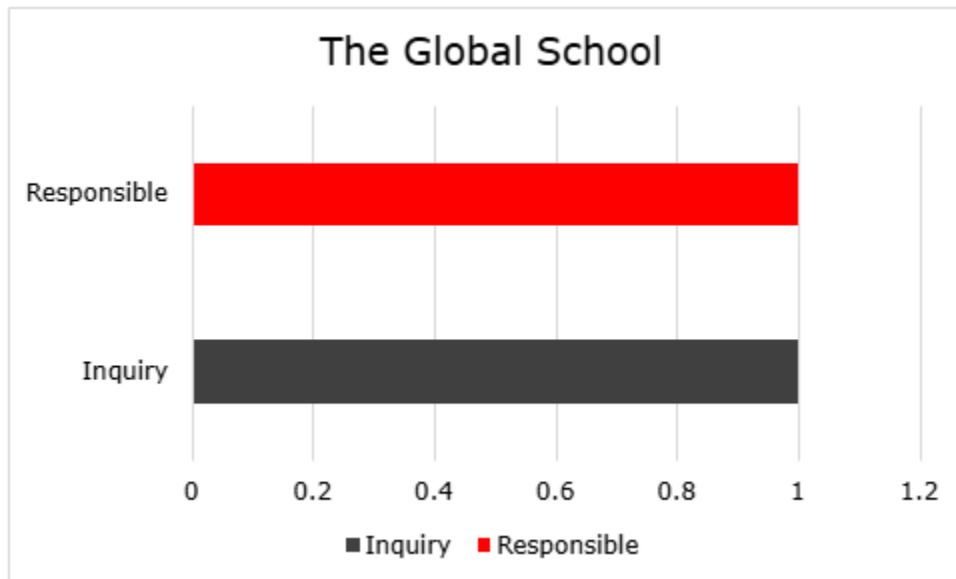
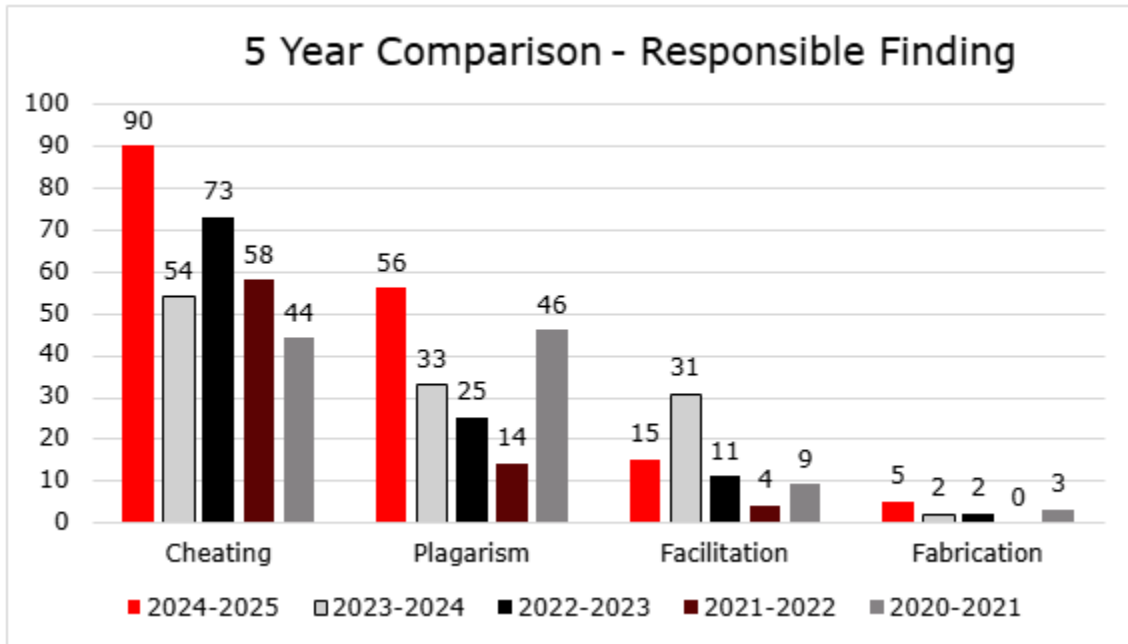


Chart 7 represents a five-year comparison of academic violations by type. An important distinction for consideration in this charge is the fact that multiple charges can be brought forward at the same time per incident. As a result, numbers may not align with data found in Chart 4.



In Chart 7, there has been a notable increase in the number of cases concerning plagiarism and cheating compared to previous years. These numbers are not surprising due to the increase in cases tied to the use of artificial intelligence that did not align with expectations of use in the classroom. Suggested ways to minimize continual growth include consistent and frequent conversations with students about what is outlined clearly in the syllabus tied to resources students can use and how to cite them appropriately.

WPI faculty, using the departmental agreement process, have the discretion to sanction students who accept responsibility for violating the Academic Integrity Policy to a penalty not to exceed an NR/F for the course. The CHB may sanction a student with 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. Sanctions imposed as a part of responsible findings tied to academic integrity are displayed in

Table 1.

Table 1 Sanctions Imposed

2024-2025 Academic Integrity Sanctions	
"0" for assignment/lab/exam	53
"NR" for course	29
"F" for course	5
CHB Restrictions imposed	1
Class visit/presentation	0
Community Service	0
Counseling referral	0
Disciplinary expulsion	1
Disciplinary suspension	0
Disciplinary probation	3
Disciplinary warning	5
Formal written apology	0
Ineligible to hold TA position	0
Ineligible to register for online courses	0
Lowered letter grade for course	25
Meet with the professor/case officer	1
Online Academic Integrity Program	6
Academic Honesty Sanctions	15
Written Assignment	1

Note: Some students received multiple sanctions from the CHB for the same incident, thus the total number of sanctions may exceed the total number of incidents.

Future Considerations

In the upcoming academic year, the newly updated Academic Integrity Policy will be implemented, which will help further clarify definitions of academic integrity and outline the academic integrity process for all stakeholders.

Over the summer, the Dean of Students has updated the academic departmental form to provide further clarification on student's rights and the

process as requested by students and faculty to outline the rights that the students have during the departmental agreement introduction, as well as assist in clarifying steps for faculty. All faculty are encouraged to use the updated form found [here](#).

In an effort to support students and faculty through the Academic Integrity Processes, new resources have been created for your support and reference as needed, including:

- [Academic Integrity Guide for Faculty](#)
- Video – [Academic Integrity at WPI](#)
- Video – [What is the Student Code of Conduct](#)

If you have any questions, please email Associate Dean of Students, Christine Sharry at crsharry@wpi.edu.