

The Consequences of Academic Dishonesty

WPI's Academic Honesty Policy is a part of the [WPI Student Code of Conduct](#)

Academic integrity is a fundamental principle of learning and a necessary foundation for all academic institutions, particularly those dedicated to independent project-based education, such as WPI. Violations of the principle deny the violators an opportunity to obtain confident command of the material they are credited with knowing, cheat their classmates out of deserved rewards and recognition, debase the institution, and demean the degree that WPI awards. It is therefore important to all members of the WPI community that a concerted effort be made to maintain high standards of integrity, both to protect the value of the educational process, and to maintain the credibility of the institution.

For students charged with a first offense, this issue may be resolved at the departmental level, providing that the student admits responsibility, and agrees to the academic penalty. The maximum penalty that can be applied at the departmental level is dismissal from a course or a project without credit (i.e. grade of 'F' or NR). In some cases, a professor may propose a grade penalty or less credit for an assignment or exam. In all cases, a signed, written report on the matter, including the action taken, shall be sent to the Dean of Students Office. A student who admits responsibility for a first offense of academic dishonesty may incur an academic penalty, and have a judicial record in the Dean of Students Office. Students also have the discretion of having their first offense allegation heard by the Campus Hearing Board (CHB).

For second and subsequent violations/allegations, Faculty Policy stipulates that the case must be submitted to the CHB for resolution. If found 'responsible', the board may impose normal disciplinary sanctions and may recommend to the professor the loss of any credit or grade for the course or project. Depending upon the circumstances, it is not uncommon for the CHB to impose a judicial sanction of disciplinary suspension for one or more semesters; disciplinary expulsion is also a possibility for egregious cases.

If a student is found not responsible on a complaint of academic dishonesty at either the departmental level or by the CHB, he/she may not be failed or penalized by the instructor on the grounds of dishonesty. The instructor shall assign a grade based on assessment of the student's mastery of the material being evaluated.

Judicial records for any act of academic dishonesty are maintained by the Dean of Students Office in accordance with the Judicial Records Policy set forth in the Student Code of Conduct.

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