Academic Misconduct Appeal

The Policy

CODE OF ACADEMIC CONDUCT

Academic Honor Code

All students in attendance at The University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University of Alabama expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. At the beginning of each semester and on tests and projects, at the discretion of the course instructor, each student will be expected to sign an Honor Pledge.

The Academic Honor Pledge reads as follows: *I promise or affirm that I will not at any time be involved with cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, or misrepresentation while enrolled as a student at The University of Alabama. I have read the Academic Honor Code, which explains disciplinary procedures that will result from the aforementioned. I understand that violation of this code will result in penalties as severe as indefinite suspension from the University.*

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academic or related matter and any knowing or intentional help, attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student commit an act of academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following acts, when performed in any type of academic or academically related matter, exercise, or activity:

- **Cheating**: using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, study aids, or computer-related information
- **Plagiarism**: representing the words, data, works, ideas, computer programs or output, or anything not generated in an authorized fashion, as one’s own
- **Fabrication**: presenting as genuine any invented or falsified citation or material
- **Misrepresentation**: falsifying, altering, or misstating the contents of documents or other materials related to academic matters, including schedules, prerequisites and transcripts.

Except in divisions which have an alternate academic misconduct policy which has been approved by the Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, academic misconduct cases shall be resolved by the academic misconduct monitor (appointed by the academic dean) or the academic dean of the division in which the alleged action took place. Appeals from the monitor’s decisions may be made to the academic dean; appeals from the academic dean’s decisions may be made to the Office for Academic Affairs.
Penalties for academic misconduct can range from a reprimand to a penalty as severe as suspension for a definite time or even indefinite suspension. Indefinite suspension normally requires a minimum of one semester, after which students may appeal for reinstatement. Academic deans have the authority to impose the full range of penalties. Divisional academic misconduct monitors may impose penalties only after receiving a voluntary written confession unless otherwise designated by the Dean. Academic misconduct monitors are authorized to impose penalties up to but not including suspension. All persons who admit to or are found guilty of an academic offense for which a penalty less than an indefinite suspension is imposed will receive a penalty of indefinite suspension if they admit to or are found guilty of another offense of academic misconduct. In all cases that involve suspension as a penalty, the Office of the University Registrar will be notified immediately of the suspension and a hold will be placed on the student’s record to prevent further enrollment.

A penalty of indefinite suspension is mandated for a finding of guilt on all second offenses. All second offense accusations are referred directly to the academic dean of the College for resolution. “Second offense accusations” assume resolution of first offenses (i.e., a finding of guilt) and that students have been afforded the opportunity to learn from the first offense. Multiple misconduct accusations, where the initial accusations have not been resolved, may result in a penalty more severe than is typical in first offenses, including indefinite suspension. For second-offense cases that are in progress at the beginning of a semester, a student will be allowed to enroll and continue through completion of semester even if the outcome of the accusation is suspension.

If an academic misconduct case is underway during a student’s final semester, the awarding of the degree may be dependent upon the resolution of the case.

The complete Academic Integrity Policy may be found at [www.studenthandbook.ua.edu/conduct.html](http://www.studenthandbook.ua.edu/conduct.html).

The Appeal

On January 27, 2011 the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences issued a decision letter regarding a case of academic misconduct that occurred in the Fall of 2010. On February 8, 2011 the student submitted a written appeal to the Vice Provost in response to the decision.

The Vice-Provost reviewed and met with the student to discuss her appeal. On February 24, 2011 the Vice Provost sent a memo to the Provost with a recommendation regarding the appeal. On February 24, 2011 the provost issued a decision letter to the student upholding the decision of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

A copy of the initial decision letter, written appeal from the student, recommendation of the Vice Provost and the affirmation of the decision from the Provost are provided below.
Memorandum:

To: Mary

From: Robert Olin  
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

Date: January 27, 2011

Re: Academic Misconduct

Cc: Nelson

This memo is in regard to PY355, which you took last fall. After careful review of materials submitted by Michael Dillard and my Associate Dean, Dr. Carmen Dunklebae, and after our conversations with you and others, I am finding you guilty of academic misconduct. We have written testimony from the instructor that the offense you turned in to Mr. Dillard was forged. In addition, we have witness that your roommate did not give you to knowingly do, nor did your mother say with you during the week in question.

Under separate cover, I will notify Mr. Dillard to assign the grade of F for PY355.

Due to the gravity of this academic misconduct, I am suspending you from school indefinitely beginning immediately after this semester. You have 10 working days from the date of this letter to appeal this decision to the Office of Academic Affairs.
To: The University of Alabama Office for Academic Affairs

From: [Name]

CWID#: [Number]

Date: 2/8/11

Appeal to Office for Academic Affairs

I would like to appeal Dean O'Ina's decision to indefinitely suspend me based on the grounds of new evidence and inconsistencies in penalties assigned. In the notice of decision letter sent to me it states "we have witnessed that your roommate did not drive you to Eminger-Care nor did your mother stay with you during the week in question." I have evidence that is definitive proof my mother was in Tuscaloosa during the week in question in the attached bank statement. Sections B.2.c. and B.2.d. of the Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy emphasize that suspensions should be made for second-time offenders who "have been afforded the opportunity to learn from the first offense (B.2.d)" or "All persons who admit to or are found guilty of an academic offense for which a penalty less than an indefinite suspension is imposed will receive a penalty of indefinite suspension if they admit to or are found guilty of another offense of academic misconduct (B.2.e)." This is my first time to have any type of academic misconduct allegations brought up against me which is inconsistent with an indefinite suspension. This is what I am basing my appeal of indefinite suspension on.

Signed: [Signature]  Date: [Date]
MEMORANDUM

DATE:    February 24, 2011

TO:      Judy Bonner, Provost

FROM:    Mark Nelson, Vice Provost

RE:       Mary

I have reviewed Mary’s appeal of Dean Olin’s finding of academic misconduct involving her PY 355 class, taken Fall 2010.

I met with Ms. and heard her appeal and she admitted her act of misconduct.

I recommend that Dean Olin’s decision and penalty of a grade of F for PY355 and indefinite suspension be upheld.
February 24, 2011

Ms. Mary
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Dear Ms.

I have received Dr. Nelson’s recommendation regarding your appeal of Dean Olin’s decision concerning your act of misconduct in PY 355, taken Fall, 2010. I concur with Dr. Nelson’s recommendation. Dean Olin’s decision and the assigned penalty are affirmed. This concludes the appeal process.

I hope that you have learned from this experience and that you are able to successfully conclude your progress toward a degree.

Sincerely,

Judy L. Bonner
Executive Vice President and Provost

By certified mail

cc: Mark Nelson
Bob Olin