Academic misconduct is defined as "any activity that tends to undermine the academic integrity of the institution." Examples of academic misconduct include cheating or using disallowed resources on an assignment or exam, fabrication of data or sources, plagiarism, interfering maliciously with another student’s academic performance, violating course or department rules, or facilitating the academic misconduct of another student.

Academic sanctions can be imposed on those found guilty of academic misconduct, ranging from a grade of F on a particular assignment or exam, to a grade of F for the course, to further-ranging university-level action.

If academic misconduct is suspected or found:

1) The instructor holds a meeting with the student, allowing the student a chance to explain himself. If the issue is resolved, the instructor may dismiss the incident.

2) If the issue remains unresolved, the instructor may impose academic sanctions, which may include a failing grade on the assignment, a failing grade for the course, or other sanction. The instructor must inform the student of her right to appeal and seek counsel from the Student Advocate’s Office.

   NOTE: Academic sanctions cannot be irreversible at this point. Until all appeal processes have been exhausted, the appeal must be able to be reversed. So, a student cannot be asked to stop attending class or be refused exams or assignments.

3) The instructor must report the incident and the sanction to the Dean of Students within fourteen calendar days. This may done online. The Dean of Students will send a report to the student and to the SPEA Undergraduate Program.

4) Once the student receives the report, he has fourteen calendar days to appeal the sanction, if desired, by submitting an appeal in writing to the SPEA Director of Undergraduate Programs.

5) The student will then be directed to schedule an appointment to meet with the Director of Undergraduate Programs to reach a resolution. If no resolution is reached, the matter will be referred to the SPEA Academic Fairness Committee. The Committee will conduct a hearing on the case and render a final decision.

6) If the student believes that a procedural error has caused him or her to be unable to fairly present his or her case, or that the academic sanction is arbitrary or disproportionate, he or she may appeal a final time to the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. A campus review board will consider the matter. Their decision is final.

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1 IU Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct
2 Based on the Kelley School of Business “Guide to Handling Academic Misconduct” and university/SPEA Policy