

Academic Integrity Report — AY 2022-2023

Prepared by Dr. Jacob Rieff, Academic Integrity Director

Relation to the Strategic Plan

Integrity is a concord between what we say and what we do, honesty with those with whom we come into contact. If we at Marquette University exist to “scrutinize reality with the methods proper to each academic discipline” in the pursuit of truth (Pope St. John Paul II, *Ex corde ecclesiae* §15), integrity is essential for our task. Truth cannot be pursued in any coherent sense along with duplicity or knowing falsehood.

Seen in this light—as truth pursued in a scholarly community—the university’s mission demands academic integrity as a matter of justice, what is owed by each person to others in their community. While the Academic Integrity Office can feel like “the plagiarism police,” our guiding desire is to support students’ own discipline as they navigate the challenges and successes of their time at Marquette. As my predecessor pointed out in his 2020-2021 report, this disciplinary focus falls particularly within the purview of two themes from the Strategic Plan: the Pursuit of Academic Excellence for Human Well-being and Formation of Minds and Hearts. For students to succeed not only in the sense of obtaining a degree—the credentials that university education offers the world beyond its walls—but in the larger sense of becoming mature, clear-sighted, and ethical actors in the world, integrity confirms the soundness of their path.

Executive Summary

The 2022-2023 Academic Year was the eighth year of the new policies and procedures regarding academic integrity at Marquette University and the present director’s first year of his three-year term. In Academic Integrity, as with so many aspects of life, there was a resetting after the worst of the pandemic. This included resolving any and all outstanding cases, recruiting new students and faculty for the Academic Integrity Council, beginning to hold more regular and in-person meetings of the Academic Integrity Director and Executive Committee, revisiting the policies and procedures to ensure their uniform enforcement, and revisiting established relationships with units across campus and establishing new ones.

While the aftereffects of the pandemic were apparent, university life was more or less back to what we are now calling “normal.” The strain the last three years have placed on instructors, staff, and students alike was evident in discussions regarding classroom conduct, assignments,

and cases. The usual surge of cases at the end of the term occurred in both fall and spring, but with a surprising increase in the spring after a relative dearth of cases until well after midterm. The processing of cases went smoothly overall, especially thanks to our Coordinator and the automation of case processing that my predecessor put into place, and we were able to maintain our deadlines practically across the board the entire year.

The mainstream appearance of large language model-based chatbots (like ChatGPT, Bard, Bing, etc.) sent a shockwave through higher education, and of course the Academic Integrity Council had to discern how best to respond to these new developments. Through meetings with other units on campus and discussions with the Executive Committee, a baseline approach was shaped and implemented along with the understanding that the situation would evolve and best practices would emerge over time. We had few cases involving large language model-based chatbots until the end of the spring term. For the most part these were resolved very straightforwardly with consensus among the parties concerned. In the summer, the Director partnered with the Center for Teaching and Learning to discern how best to guide the university community regarding this new challenge. A joint statement was released soon before the start of the 2023-2024 academic year.

Administration of Academic Misconduct Cases

- This year we had 26 faculty investigative officers (IOs)
- This year we also had 20 students available to serve on hearing boards
- In total, the AIC administered 168 cases

Fostering Academic Integrity

While the lion's share of the labor in the Academic Integrity Office is occupied with the processing of cases, we also desire to be a constructive and positive presence on campus that promotes integrity in all academic work. This involves lots of one-on-one discussions with faculty, staff, and students, but also takes more formal guises. This year we:

- Partnered with the Center for Teaching and Learning to draft a statement of guidance regarding the use of large language model-based chatbots at Marquette University
- Presented on the use of large language model-based chatbots at Marquette University for the Nursing College's professional development meeting and the instructors in the Dual Enrollment program along with Dr. Melissa Shew of CTL
- Presented the state of the office and its goals for the upcoming year to the faculty of the Business College at the beginning of the year
- Presented on academic integrity and the Office's roll on campus to two larger first-year Honors classes

Academic Misconduct Case Types

In the Fall term, investigations resulted in the finding of 43 cases of cheating, 35 of plagiarism, 1 of fraud, and 1 of multiple infractions.

In the Spring term, investigations resulted in the finding of 15 cases of cheating, 58 of plagiarism, and 14 of fraud.

For the full academic year, investigations resulted in the finding of 58 cases of cheating, 93 of plagiarism, 15 of fraud, and 1 of multiple infractions.

Case Outcomes

In the Fall term, 46 cases were resolved with Expedited Review (in which a student is offered the opportunity to admit to wrongdoing for a genuine but not severe sanction without a full hearing), 25 with Dismissal, and 9 with a Full Hearing.

In the Spring term, 76 cases were resolved with Expedited Review, 3 with Dismissal, and 8 with a Full Hearing.

For the full academic year, this resulted in 122 Expedited Reviews, 28 Dismissals, and 17 Full Hearings.

Students' Home College (Number of Cases)

The various colleges had the following number of cases.

For the Fall term: College of Business Administration: 13; Klingler College of Arts and Sciences: 15; College of Education: 0; Graduate School: 19; College of Health Sciences: 11; Diederich College of Communication: 5; Opus College of Engineering: 9; College of Nursing: 8.

For the Spring term: College of Business Administration: 14; Klingler College of Arts and Sciences: 26; College of Education: 0; Graduate School: 5; College of Health Sciences: 8; Diederich College of Communication: 11; Opus College of Engineering: 17; College of Nursing: 6.

For the full academic year: College of Business Administration: 27; Klingler College of Arts and Sciences: 41; College of Education: 0; Graduate School: 24; College of Health Sciences: 19; Diederich College of Communication: 16; Opus College of Engineering: 26; College of Nursing: 14.

Thoughts for the Coming Year

In the coming year, the Director plans to:

- Form a working group with interested students to share resources regarding large language model-based chatbots and the companies who produce them, hoping to help

students understand the nature of these technologies and the larger impact they have on the earth, workers, the economy, and users

- Search for new opportunities to share the message of academic integrity with classes, faculty, and other groups on campus
- Invite student members of AIC to brainstorm new ways they can be involved and engage the student population at large in formation concerning and promotion of academic integrity
- Organize a speaking event on academic integrity with other units on campus
- Continue to evaluate the sanctioning process and develop new sanction possibilities
- Continue discussions with other units on campus to discern how we can collaborate most effectively for our students

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jacob Riyeff', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jacob Riyeff, PhD

Teaching Associate Professor and Academic Integrity Director