Graduate Students: Policy 60 and Academic Integrity

Note: This is not a complete list. Please see Policy 60: Academic Integrity for more.

"In graduate education it is essential that an environment exists where faculty and students have the utmost regard for academic integrity. Graduate students often engage in research with a large degree of independence. Therefore, they are expected to and must pursue their academic and research activities in a manner that is consistent with the highest standards of ethical and scholarly practice." *(*Policy 60: Academic Integrity, 4.6*)*

Outcomes for Academic Misconduct

(please see Policy 60: Academic Integrity, Section 7 for complete list)

The minimum penalty for misconduct with respect to work submitted in a course by a graduate student is a grade of "zero" (0) on the work. (Policy 60: Academic Integrity, Section 7.1.2)

The minimum penalty for misconduct with respect to non-course program requirements by a graduate student is a grade of 'D-UNS' [Disciplinary Unsatisfactory].
(Policy 60: Academic Integrity, Section 7.1.3)

Graduate students cannot be assigned a Disciplinary Suspension (DS).
(Policy 60: Academic Integrity, Section 7.2.1.3)

Disciplinary Action (DA) is an academic standing for a graduate student to indicate academic misconduct. A DA will be placed on the academic record and transcript and cannot be removed… While an initial decision maker may recommend a DA for a graduate student, it may only be assigned by the Academic Integrity Council (AIC), the Graduate Admissions Appeals Committee (GAAC) or the Senate Appeals Committee (SAC). (Policy 60: Academic Integrity, Section 3.6 & Section 7.2.2)

Disciplinary Action, Suspension (DA-S) is an academic standing for a graduate student where they are removed from a program for a period of up to two (2) years, after which the student can request to re-enroll in the program. A DA-S will be placed on the academic record and transcript and cannot be removed. When the student will be removed from their program is recommended by the initial decision maker or Graduate Program Director and assigned by the AIC, GAAC or SAC. While an initial decision maker may recommend a DA-S for a graduate student, it may only be assigned by the AIC, GAAC or SAC. (Policy 60: Academic Integrity, Section 3.7 & Section 7.2.2.2)

Disciplinary Withdrawal (DW) is an academic standing where a student is permanently withdrawn from a specific program and fully withdrawn from the University as a whole for a period of at least two (2) years. After serving the specified period, a student assigned a DW may apply to other programs/ certificates at the University. A DW will be placed on the academic record and transcript and cannot be removed. (Policy 60: Academic Integrity, Section 3.11)

Progressive Discipline

A second finding of academic misconduct shall automatically require a penalty hearing regarding DA-S, DW, or Expulsion. (Policy 60: Academic Integrity Procedures, Section 7.4)

Suspicions of Misconduct

In recognition of the severity of the potential impact of even a formal suspicion upon students at the graduate level, there is no option of a non-facilitated discussion (NFD) with [graduate] students. Where a group discussion is held it must be a facilitated discussion (FD). If students have been to a group discussion, they may request an individual meeting; however, they may also still be required to attend a group meeting. (Policy 60: Academic Integrity Procedures, Section1.5.7-1.5.8)

In all cases of suspected misconduct in non-course program requirements, the Vice President Research and Innovation (VPRI) must be notified by the AIO. In the case of graduate student misconduct, the Dean and/or the Vice-Provost and Dean YSGS must also be notified of the suspicion. (Policy 60: Academic Integrity Procedures, Section 1.5.9)

In the case of a student in receipt of tri-agency funding, the VPRI will assign an additional investigator, external (i.e. arms-length) to the university, who will also attend and participate in the FD as an investigator and decision maker and will sign a confidentiality agreement registered with the Office of the Vice President of Research and Innovation (OVPRI). (Policy 60: Academic Integrity Procedures, Section1.5.10)

Academic Misconduct in Supervised Research Activities

"Supervised research" is treated as a separate category and includes academic milestones such as Comprehensive Examinations, Major Research Papers, Research or Thesis Proposals, Theses and Dissertations, as well as the research and associated writing carried out towards any of these at either the undergraduate or graduate level. Suspicions of research misconduct that may have occurred under the auspices of Toronto Metropolitan University, but are in no way directed towards academic advantage or benefit, are to be addressed under Policy 118: Scholarly, Research and Creative Activity (SRC) Integrity rather than Policy 60: Academic Integrity.
(Policy 60: Academic Integrity, Appendix A, Section 9)

Questions or Urgent Requests? Contact:

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