

## How Decisions are Made When There is a Suspicion of Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct decisions are made based on a balance of probabilities. To have a finding of academic misconduct means that the likelihood that the student breached Policy 60 is **greater than 50%**. The burden of proof is on the university to meet the >50% threshold.

Decisions aren't made in a vacuum. When there is an academic integrity concern, students receive an official email outlining the concern. They also receive any supporting documentation and an invitation to meet with the Decision Maker to discuss the matter in advance of any decision being made. The discussion is meant to be exploratory and focused on education, and both the student and the Decision Maker can ask questions and explain their perspectives.



It's important to understand that when determining whether Policy 60 has been breached or not, Decision Makers can't take intent into consideration; a person can accidentally break a rule, but the rule is still broken. That's why it's so important to make sure you know and understand [Senate Policy 60](#), and that you use the resources available to you to ensure your success. [Student Life and Learning Support](#) is a great place to start!