

Policy Title: Academic Honesty

Since the value of an academic degree depends on the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student maintains a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work. All references herein to the "Rules" refer to The University of Texas System Board of Regents' Rules and Regulations, and specifically Series 50101. The Rules may be accessed via the Internet. In the case of any perceived conflict between the Rules and this policy, the Rules will prevail.

Policy

The faculty and the students of The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston expect that every student will maintain a high standard of individual honor and academic honesty while studying at the School. Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion in cheating or plagiarism, the submission of any work or materials for credit that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act(s) designed to give unfair advantage to a student, or the attempt to commit such act(s). See Rules, Series 50101, Section 2.2.

Procedure

The SON Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall have the primary authority for and responsibility of the administration of student discipline. At the School, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, is the designee of the Dean as contemplated in Series 50101, Section 4 of the Rules.

The procedure found in the Rules, Series 50101, Section 4 will generally be followed in dealing with students who are accused of academic dishonesty. In accordance with Section 3.43 of the Rules, the pertinent faculty member(s) and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will arrange to meet with any student who is accused of academic dishonesty. At this meeting, the facts upon which the allegations are based will be presented to the student. The student may present facts concerning the incident, and in any case, shall be given a copy of Series 50101 of the Rules (School of Nursing Student Policies, can be accessed via the Internet.) At this point the student will have the opportunity to admit or dispute the facts on which the allegations are based. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall forward a written summary of this meeting to the Office of the Dean.

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No Disputed Facts

In any case where the accused student does not dispute the facts upon which the allegations are based *and* executes a written waiver of the hearing procedures outlined in the Rules, Series 50101, Section 5, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall assess a penalty that is appropriate to the allegations (see Rules, Series 50101, Section 6) and inform the student of such action in writing. The penalty decision of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs may be appealed; however, the appeal is limited to the issue of penalty alone. The appeal procedure outlined in the Rules, Series 50101, Section 7 shall apply.

Disputed Facts

In those cases in which the accused student disputes the facts upon which the allegations are based, such allegations shall be heard and determined by a fair and impartial Hearing Officer in accordance with the practices determined by the Rules, Series 50101, Section 5. If the Hearing Officer's determination includes the imposition of disciplinary action, that action shall be imposed in accordance with the Rules, Series 50101, Section 7.

The School shall maintain for every student assessed disciplinary action a written disciplinary record that shall reflect the nature of the charge, the disposition of the charge and the penalty assessed, and any other pertinent information. The record shall be kept permanently if a student is assessed a penalty of suspension, expulsion, denial or revocation of degree, and/or withdrawal of diploma, and for up to five years if a student is assessed other disciplinary action. This disciplinary record shall be separate from the student's academic record and shall be treated as confidential; the record shall not be accessible to or utilized by anyone other than the Dean or the Dean's designate, except upon written authorization of the student, or in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, or upon court order or by valid subpoena.

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