

Discipline Committee Information Sheet – Penalties for Student Misconduct

This sheet is intended to provide information to students referred to the Discipline Committee about the kinds of penalties that may be imposed.

Functions of the Discipline Committee

Under the University's Statute for Student Discipline, the Discipline Committee hears allegations of student misconduct and decides, on the balance of probabilities, whether or not the alleged misconduct took place. If the Discipline Committee finds that a student has committed misconduct, the Committee will decide whether to impose a penalty or penalties on the student.

Nature of Penalties Imposed by the Discipline Committee

The Discipline Committee may impose one or more of the following penalties on students for misconduct. That:

1. A student be issued with a letter of reprimand
2. A student's coursework and/or examination in question not be marked or the mark be reduced, down to and including a mark of zero (for cases of academic misconduct)
3. A student's course or courses in question be given a reduced grade, down to and including a grade of 'Fail' (for cases of academic misconduct)
4. A student be required to pay a fine of up to \$1000 (for cases of academic misconduct) or up to \$5000 (for cases of non-academic misconduct)
5. A student's attendance at the University be suspended for a period to be determined
6. A student be expelled from the University (this is also referred to as "cancellation of enrolment")

Suspension or Expulsion for Academic Misconduct

Suspension and expulsion are the most severe penalties that the Discipline Committee can impose.

"Suspension of attendance at the University" means that all the student's current enrolments in University courses are cancelled and they are not permitted to enrol in any University courses for the period of their suspension. The duration of the suspension is at the discretion of the Discipline Committee. Suspensions imposed have ranged from one semester up to two years.

Expulsion or cancellation of enrolment means that the student's enrolment in any programme of study at the University is cancelled (as well as their current enrolments for individual courses) and they are not permitted to enrol in any University of Auckland courses indefinitely.

The Discipline Committee has imposed these penalties for the worst cases of academic misconduct, such as:

- Cases where the student has been punished by the Discipline Committee for academic misconduct on a previous occasion, and gone on to commit further academic misconduct.
- Cases where a student has arranged to be impersonated by someone for a test or examination, or impersonated another student in a test or examination.
- Extensive academic misconduct in postgraduate dissertations and theses.
- Cases where a student has arranged through a commercial service for another person to complete their coursework (i.e. contract cheating).

Relevant Factors for Penalty Decisions

The following are some of the relevant factors taken into account by the Discipline Committee in making its decision on what penalty or penalties to impose for misconduct:

- The impact of the misconduct on the integrity of the coursework or the examination
- The impact of the misconduct on the legitimate interests of others and the interests and reputation of the University
- That the misconduct was committed after the student had been warned or punished for prior misconduct
- The degree of premeditation and any efforts taken to avoid detection.
- Whether and when the student admitted the allegations, and the extent to which they showed understanding and remorse for their actions.
- Family illness, bereavement, serious relationship or family issues or other misfortune which might have affected the student's judgment

Review of Penalties

The student can apply for the Discipline Committee's decision and/or penalties imposed to be reviewed by the Student Appeals Committee. Further information about this process is available from the Committee secretary.