# **GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC STANDARDS SANCTIONS FALL 2024**

# Level DefinitionsLevel 1 Violations

i) Level 1 violations are defined as incidents that are not considered egregious. These violations tend to be lower level. A referral will be sanctioned according to the Level 1 Sanction matrix if all the following conditions are met:

1. The violation is not considered egregious.
2. The individual has no previous record with the university of violating academic standards or a former academic integrity violation.
3. The student is either a
   1. An undergraduate with fewer than 90 credits or less than one year of coursework at Mason OR
   2. A non-Doctoral (e.g. JD, PhD, EdD, etc.) graduate student in their first semester of study

Level 2 Violations

ii) Level 2 violations are defined as being of a more serious nature and merit a more severe institutional response. A referral will be sanctioned according to the Level 2 sanctions if at least one of the following conditions is met:

1. The violation is **egregious, as determined by the Academic Standards Office.** Examples of egregious violations include
   1. A substantial portion of the assignment was copied, plagiarized, and/or cheated on
   2. Fabricated evidence (e.g., submitted edited screenshots as evidence for a grade adjustment, fake doctor’s notes, internship updates, impersonation, fabricated citations)
   3. Fabricated project data
   4. Financial compensation in exchange for academic work eg., contract cheating)
   5. Failure to include a co-author on a manuscript submitted for presentation or publication
   6. Multiple separate violations related to the same event eg., fabricated data with plagiarism, usage of Artificial Intelligence in addition to plagiarism)
   7. The violation had an impact on individuals that were not involved in committing the offense, such as a collaborative project
   8. Violations involving elements of professional credentialing
2. The individual has a previous record of violating academic standards or academic integrity.
3. The student has sufficient experience within the academic environment that a violation would be considered more serious.
   1. Undergraduates that have been at Mason for at least a year and have more than 90 credits of completed coursework
   2. Graduate students beyond their 1st semester of Graduate study
   3. Any violation committed by a Doctoral (e.g., PhD, JD, EdD) student

**Academic and Educational Sanctions**

Violations of Academic Standards are sanctioned according to a common matrix. Sanctions include both educational and administrative components. Student violations of Academic Standards are sanctioned according to following matrix:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Finding | Sanction |
| Level 1 | * 0% on the assessment and an additional letter grade reduction in the final course grade      * University Integrity Educational Interventions (\*) *(determined by the Academic Standards Office*) |
| Level 2 | * Failure of relevant Course or Assessment (comprehensive exams, dissertation, thesis, etc.)      * University Integrity Educational Intervention (\*) |

*\* Education Interventions may include online learning modules, visits to the writing center, or other programs to assist the student in understanding and remediating the violation.*

**Suspension, Dismissal, and Termination**

i) In some cases, violations of Academic Standards rise to the level that merits a pause or removal from studies. Suspension, Dismissal, and Academic Termination decisions are based on the program level of the student, the number of previous offenses, and the severity of the offense. The decision to refer a violation for potential suspension or dismissal consideration is made in accordance with the sanctioning matrix. Where there is discretion to recommend a student for suspension or dismissal, Academic Standards Staff will decide. For undergraduates, the timing and process of suspensions follow the Academic Suspension process as listed in AP5.2.6. Graduate Students can be suspended or terminated from their program. If a student is found in violation, the outcomes are adjudicated through the matrix below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Student Program Level** | **1st Referral to ASO** | **2nd Referral to ASO** | **3rd Referral to ASO** | **4th Referral to ASO** |
| **Undergraduate** | Potential  Recommendation for  Academic  Suspension  OR  Permanent Dismissal | Automatic  Recommendation  Academic Suspension  OR  Potential Recommended for Permanent Dismissal | Automatic Academic  Suspension  OR  Automatic  Recommendation for  Permanent Dismissal | Automatic  Recommendation for Permanent  Dismissal |
| **Graduate** | Automatic  Recommendation for  Academic  Suspension  AND  Potential  Recommended for  Program Termination | Automatic Academic  Suspension  AND  Automatic  Recommended for  Programs Termination | Automatic Program Termination |  |