



Academic Integrity Protocol 2025-2026

School Academic Integrity Committee

The School Academic Integrity Committee (SAIC) consists of:

- Assoc. Prof. Michael Salter-Townshend
- Assoc. Prof. Conor Sweeney (School Head of Teaching and Learning)
- Assoc. Prof. Thomas Unger (Chair)

§0. Introduction for Students

This document should be read together with the UCD [Student Code of Conduct](#), the UCD [Academic Integrity Policy](#) (AIP) and the UCD [Student Academic Misconduct Procedure](#) (SAMP).

It deals with all forms of academic misconduct as defined in §5 of the AIP, with a particular emphasis on plagiarism in a broad sense and the use of generative artificial intelligence.

Plagiarism is defined as *passing off someone else's work and ideas as one's own*.

Accidental or unintentional plagiarism is usually just poor academic practice. For example, not properly referencing or citing a source. Your lecturer will prompt you to make appropriate changes to your submitted work. A penalty may also be incurred.

Premeditated or intentional plagiarism on the other hand is considered a breach of academic integrity. Examples of such plagiarism include: collaborating with (an)other student(s) when this is not explicitly allowed; copying from (an)other student(s) with or without their knowledge; copying from internet sources (including code repositories) when this is not explicitly allowed; using (online) computational apps and problem solvers when this is not explicitly allowed; self-plagiarism (i.e., submitting work for a module that was already submitted for a different module). For a complete list, see §5 of the AIP.

Your lecturer will inform you at the start of the trimester what is considered plagiarism for their module, and whether and to what extent the use of generative artificial intelligence (such as ChatGPT) is allowed.

Intentional plagiarism will incur a penalty for all students involved, including the person(s) who willingly provided solutions (if applicable). Likewise, the use of generative artificial intelligence when this is not explicitly allowed will incur a penalty.

Penalties go from mild to severe (reduction of the assessment mark to NM, GPA capping, fine, suspension, expulsion, ...).

Confirmed cases of academic misconduct will be recorded. For serious incidents the UCD Student Discipline Procedure will be invoked.

If you are under pressure (academic or otherwise), reach out to your lecturer or to a student advisor. You can apply for assignment submission extensions through the extenuating circumstances process. Alternatively, a late submission penalty is always better than resorting to academic misconduct.

§1. Guidelines for Students

- §1.1 Students should familiarise themselves with the AIP and SAMP. They may also want to consult the section “Avoiding Academic Misconduct” on the [Student Conduct website](#).
- §1.2 When submitting any assignment, it is understood that the student who submits the assignment abides by the AIP. Students should submit an academic integrity declaration for each assignment, as directed by the Module Coordinator (MC).
- §1.3 The UCD Library has [resources and advice](#) for students to avoid unintentional plagiarism (e.g. by not citing or quoting from other sources correctly).
- §1.4 Any suspected case of academic misconduct shall be investigated and remediated by the relevant MC and/or the SAIC. Any serious breach of the AIP shall be referred to the UCD Student Discipline Procedure. The Process Map (see Appendix 3) shall be followed; see also §2 below.
- §1.5 Repeat offences shall be referred to the SAIC. Cases of academic misconduct that are detected retrospectively shall be investigated by the SAIC and may result in the revision of already awarded module grades.

§2. Guidelines for Module Coordinators

- §2.1 At the start of each trimester, and for each of their modules, MCs should inform students about the AIP and SAMP and should make a copy of the School’s Academic Integrity Protocol available to them. MCs should inform and liaise with all staff that are associated with the module, in particular lecturers (where the MC is not the lecturer) and tutors.
- §2.2 MCs should ask students to submit an academic integrity declaration with each assignment. MCs should indicate clearly what constitutes an act of plagiarism for their module (e.g., copying from another student, copying from a website, using web-based tools, using web-based problem solvers, using web-based code repositories, etc.), and whether and to what extent the use of generative artificial intelligence is allowed. MCs should indicate what the penalty for late submission of assignments is. MCs should indicate what the penalties are for plagiarism and for unauthorised use of generative artificial intelligence for cases that are not referred to the SAIC.
- §2.3 Any investigation into and penalisation of an alleged case of academic misconduct shall follow the procedures outlined in the SAMP. The Process Map (see Appendix 3) shall be followed. Concerning plagiarism, there are three categories (cf. SAMP §4.2):
 - a) *Poor academic practice in referencing and citation and/or an offence involving 50% or less of the assessment component:* these can be dealt with directly by the MC, but may be referred to the SAIC. Any repeat offence shall be referred to the SAIC. Any substantial offence (i.e., involving more than 50% of the assessment component) shall be referred to the SAIC. In case of referral to the SAIC, the procedure detailed in SAMP §5.2 shall be followed. In all cases the MC shall provide the SAIC with a short report containing all relevant details, including what penalty was applied in case of non-referral to the SAIC (cf. §3.1).
 - b) *Cases that are referred to and managed by the SAIC.*
 - c) *Cases that are referred without decision to the UCD Student Discipline Procedure.*
- §2.4 MCs can ask the SAIC for directions and advice (e.g., on what category possible plagiarism falls into, on repeated instances of plagiarism that are detected retrospectively at the end of a module).
- §2.5 Any allegation of academic misconduct shall be evidence based, with reference to §2.2. (For example, two students collaborating where this was not explicitly forbidden does not constitute an act of plagiarism.)

- §2.6 Where a staff member associated to a given module (e.g., lecturer, tutor) suspects a case of academic misconduct, they must inform the MC.
- §2.7 The MC and the SAIC shall ensure that any academic misconduct investigation is free of any conflict of interest.

§3. Penalties

- §3.1 In the context of §2.3 a), where an MC does not refer the case to the SAIC, the MC shall apply a penalty that is proportional to the severity of the plagiarism. See also §2.2 above.
- §3.2 In the context of §2.3 b) where a case has been referred to the SAIC: “AMBeR” Points shall be used to determine the penalty in accordance with §3.5 e) of the SAMP, see Appendix 1. Concerning the Amount/Extent of plagiarism:
- For essay type questions, penalty points between 80 and 225, as indicated in Appendix 1, shall be applied.
 - For discrete assessment components, consisting of $n \geq 5$ parts, the following penalty points shall be applied ($\lceil x \rceil$ denotes the ceiling function):

between half of one part and one part	80 points
between one and $\lceil n/5 \rceil$ parts	105 points
between $\lceil n/5 \rceil$ and $\lceil n/2 \rceil$ parts	130 points
more than $\lceil n/2 \rceil$ parts	160 points

The sum of all awarded points shall then be used in accordance with the table in Appendix 2 to determine the final penalty.

- §3.3 The penalties for unauthorised use of generative artificial intelligence shall be as described in §3.1 above for minor infringements and §3.2 above for major infringements, *mutatis mutandis*.

§4. Reporting Guidelines

When reporting a suspected case of academic misconduct to the SAIC, the following information should be included, and submitted to the full SAIC:

- Student name.
- Student number.
- Student email address.
- Module code and title.
- Programme and stage.
- Assessment strategy (list of components and their contribution to the module grade).
- Details of the assessment component under suspicion.
- A copy of the assessment instructions (e.g., problem sheet, final exam, ...).
- Evidence upon which the suspicion is based. Should include the original student submission. Should include an annotated copy of the student submission with suspicious sections highlighted. If there is a TURNITIN report, it should be included.

- Details of any actions taken and/or communication with the student. Should include any relevant correspondence with the student.
- The MC's assessment of the seriousness of the academic misconduct: mild (minor penalty), moderate (more significant penalty/capped resubmission or resit), severe (potentially requiring direct referral to Student Discipline Procedure).

Note:

- a) If more than one student is involved, the MC should provide the above information for all involved students, and should also provide an overview of the overall case against the students as a group.
- b) The MC's report will be included in the MC's or SAIC's correspondence with the student(s) subsequent to the start of the investigation procedure.

Appendix 1. “AMBeR” Points Computation



Assign points based on the following criteria

HISTORY

1st Time	100 points
2nd Time	150 points
3rd/+ Time	200 points

AMOUNT / EXTENT

Below 5% AND less than two sentences	80 points
As above but with critical aspects* plagiarised	105 points
Between 5% and 20% OR more than two sentences but not more than two paragraphs	105 points
As above but with critical aspects* plagiarised	130 points
Between 20% and 50% OR more than two paragraphs but not more than five paragraphs	130 points
As above but with critical aspects* plagiarised	160 points
Above 50% OR more than five paragraphs	160 points
Submission purchased from essay mill or ghostwriting service †	225 points

* Critical aspects are key ideas central to the assignment

† Some institutions may consider this to be a separate form of academic malpractice

LEVEL / STAGE

Level 1	70 points
Level 2	115 points
Level 3/Postgraduate	140 points

VALUE OF ASSIGNMENT

Standard weighting	30 points
Large project (e.g. final year dissertation)	60 points

ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Evidence of deliberate attempt to disguise plagiarism by changing words, sentences or references to avoid detection **40 points**

Plagiarism Reference Tariff Copyright © 2009-2010 nleaming LTD

plagiarismadvice.org

Appendix 2. Tariff amended for UCD use

Level	Points	Work submitted for gradable assessment
All	n/a	In all cases where it is determined by the School Academic Integrity Committee that plagiarism has taken place a formal verbal or written warning is given, and a record is made contributing to the student's previous history on the UCD Plagiarism Record System. In addition, the committee <u>may</u> apply any of the following penalties as appropriate
School Academic Integrity Committee	280-329	Assessment component provisionally awarded NM ⁹ - resubmission permitted, with a late submission grade penalty ¹⁰
School Academic Integrity Committee	330-379	Assessment component provisionally awarded NM - resubmission permitted, with a late submission grade penalty, or Assessment component provisionally awarded NM – resubmission permitted but grade for the resubmitted assessment capped. School Academic Integrity Committees may select the capped grade from all passing grades of the Component Grading Scale as deemed appropriate. When capping grades School Academic Integrity Committees may wish to limit this to a D- or at the original grade or an adjusted original grade in line with Academic Regulation 4.26 and the Component Grade Scale
School Academic Integrity Committee	380-479	Assessment component provisionally awarded NM – resubmission permitted but grade for the resubmitted assessment capped. Direct that the assessment grade is reduced with no opportunity to resubmit. School Academic Integrity Committees may select grades from all passing grades of the Component Grading Scale as deemed appropriate.
University Student Discipline Procedure ¹¹	480-524	Penalties applied under the Student Discipline Procedure are done so at two stages of the process 1) a Student Conduct Meeting and 2) the Student Disciplinary Committee Hearing. Penalties will be applied as appropriate to the circumstances of the case. Cases scoring 525 and above will normally attract more severe penalties, however, the under the Student Discipline Procedure decision-makers have the authority to select penalties following consideration of all circumstances relating to the case. The lists of penalties available under the Student Discipline Procedure are included in full. They include some penalties that are more appropriate for non-academic misconduct which may not be relevant to incidents of plagiarism. 1. Student Conduct Meeting
University Student Discipline Procedure	525+	

⁹ In Academic Regulations the grade “NM” means *No grade - work submitted did not merit a grade*

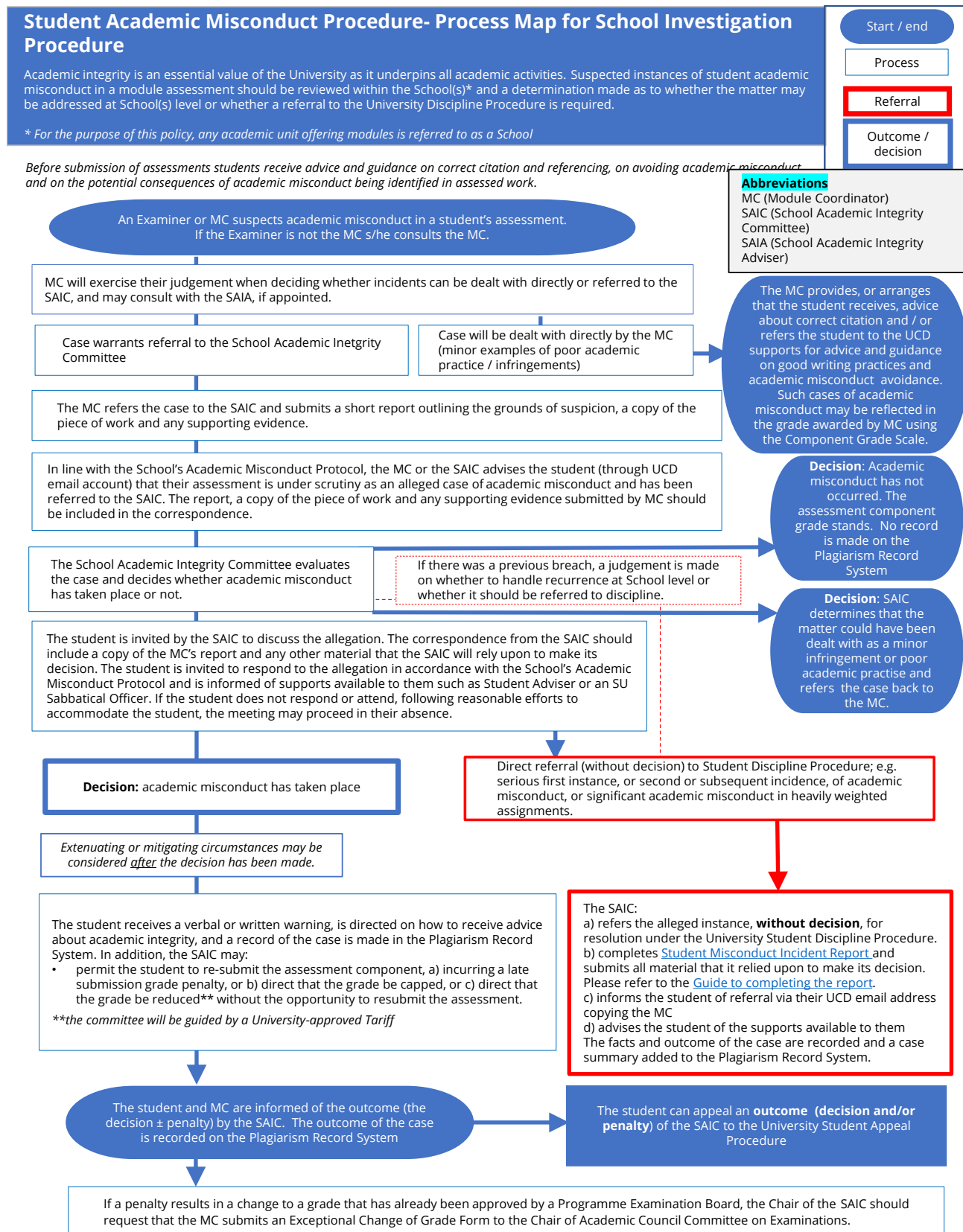
¹⁰ See [Late Submission of Coursework Policy](#).

¹¹ Penalties available under the [Student Discipline Procedure](#) are set out in full in section s 5.5 and 7. All penalties remain available to Student Disciplinary Committee

		Penalties available at the Student Conduct Meeting stage are presented section 5.5 of the Student Discipline Procedure. Applicable penalties may be applied in combination.: • Issue a warning. • Impose a fine not exceeding €250. • Require the respondent to pay for, or contribute towards making good any damage or loss they have caused. • In the case of academic breaches, reduction of an assessment component grade (assessment where breach occurred) up to and including the application of No Grade (NM). • In the case of plagiarism, referred by a School Academic Integrity Committee, reduction of a grade up to and including the application of No Grade (NM) <u>for the module</u> where the breach has occurred. • In addition to the penalties above, a respondent may be required to undertake an activity / action intended to satisfy the University that the respondent understands the consequences of their conduct and learns from the experience 2. Student Disciplinary Committee Hearing Stage Student Disciplinary Committee may impose any of the penalties available at the Student Conduct Meeting stage of the process, and any of the following penalties, either separately or in combination as appropriate to the breach or nature of the breach. Penalties are taken from section 7 of the Student Discipline Procedure • A written reprimand; • A fine not exceeding €1000; • Reduction of a component assessment grade or module grade up to and including the application of No Grade (NM) for the module; • exclusion from sittings of examinations for a specified period; • withhold any academic award, scholarship or prize including on a permanent basis; • require the reparation of any damage or loss caused, either to the University or to any of its members of staff or students or members of the public; • suspension from accessing specific University facilities; • permanent exclusion from accessing specific University facilities; • suspension from a UCD Residence; • terminate licence to reside at a UCD Residence; • suspension from the University for a specified period, or until such time as any requirements laid down by the Committee such as payment of a fine or the restitution of damage or loss are fulfilled; • permanent expulsion from the University. In addition to the penalties above, a student may be required to complete an activity / action intended to satisfy the University that a student understands the consequences of their actions. The Committee may in exceptional cases, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, decide not to impose any penalty.
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Level	Points	Work submitted for Pass/Resubmit/Fail assessments, including Stage Transfer Assessments and Research Degree Dissertations
All	n/a	In all cases where it is determined that plagiarism has taken place a formal verbal or written warning is given, and a record is made contributing to the student's previous history on the UCD Plagiarism Record System. In addition, the committee may apply any of the following penalties as appropriate:
School	280-479	Revise, repeat or resubmission of the assessment permitted
Discipline*	479+	An appropriate penalty is taken from within the Discipline range of penalties

Appendix 3. Process Map for School Investigation Procedure



SECCA 2024/25