

attempts, and full disclosure on transcripts.

Academic Appeal Policy – Major revisions, including a change to process

A working group of the Academic College Council, including faculty, students, and administrators, reviewed feedback from the Appeal Assessment Review Panel, suggestions from stakeholders, and an environmental scan of the policies and procedures from other institutions. Their work resulted in an updated policy with the following revisions: The purpose of the policy is now clearly stated, along with the grounds for appeals, which were not part of the previous policy. The grounds, along with the updated process and a flow chart, are presented in the “supporting documentation” section. The timeline for students to launch a Level 1 – Informal Academic Resolution Process is now within ten business days of final grades being published. If the issue is not resolved through the informal process, the student has five business days to initiate the Level 2 – Formal Academic Appeal Process. Shorter timelines for the formal process serve to provide students with a timely decision.

The optional Formal Academic Appeal Assessment Process remains intact.

The \$25.00 appeal fee remains the same; however, it is no longer non-refundable in the event the student’s appeal is successful.

We are working on updating forms and providing guidance documents for staff and students.

Academic Integrity – Major revisions to approach, procedures and sanctions

We’ve reported on the work of the Academic Integrity subcommittees in previous issues of the Academic Newsletter. The Academic Integrity Policy, which replaces the Academic Honesty policy and procedures (Article 9 and Appendix E of the old policy document), reflects the emphasis on a teaching and learning approach to academic integrity which is grounded in literature and the best practices of the member institutions of the International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI) and the Academic Integrity Council of Ontario.

Our previous policy and procedure were more reflective of a “rules and compliance” model. Procedures for addressing breaches of the policy have been updated, as have the sanctions. This approach enables faculty and Academic Integrity committees to consider the context and severity of the offence when applying a sanction, such as the level of the student’s academic experience (first semester of a diploma program versus an upper-semester student), extenuating circumstances, and prior/multiple incidents. It is anticipated that reporting of violations may increase, as there may be more willingness to report if the sanction is more closely aligned with the severity of the offence; there is an opportunity to have the student correct and learn from their error and be penalized accordingly.

Workshops and resources in a variety of formats, focusing on information about the policy and the updated procedures, will be available for all members of the Seneca Community. The SSF is engaged and is working to support the Academic Integrity program. For example, they will be participating, along with schools, Seneca Libraries, and the Learning Centre in the 3rd International Day of Action against Contract Cheating on October 17. The ICAI has produced a [tool kit](#) for educators to combat contract cheating.

Grading Policy

The working group recommended to the Academic College Council a number of minor revisions to update the policy. References to promotion committees, good standing, and minimum acceptable performance have been removed as these are now captured in the new “Student Progression and Promotion Policy.”

View the [September 2018 issue of the Academic Newsletter](#).

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