

Academic Integrity Annual Report

YEAR AT A GLANCE

Indicator	2024-25	2025-26	Change
Case records	254	326	+72 (+28.3%)
Unique students	235	295	+60 (+25.5%)
AI-related case records	109	231	+122 (+111.9%)
Students with multiple records	14	19	+5 (+35.7%)
Median incident-to-resolution interval	9 days	9 days	0 days (0.0%)
Median interval for cases coded as appeal	54 days	32 days	-22 days (-40.7%)

Timing note: Medians use records with both dates present and nonnegative intervals. The 2024-25 appeal median is based on four such intervals. Timing begins at the recorded incident date and does not isolate Office processing time.

PRIMARY SANCTIONS AND FINAL RECORDED PATHWAYS

PRIMARY SANCTION

Sanction	2024-25 n (%) [*]	2025-26 n (%) [*]	Change n (pp)
No credit on assignment	121 (47.6%)	154 (47.2%)	+33 (-0.4 pp)
Reduced credit	76 (29.9%)	84 (25.8%)	+8 (-4.2 pp)
Educational or restorative	21 (8.3%)	25 (7.7%)	+4 (-0.6 pp)
XF for course	14 (5.5%)	33 (10.1%)	+19 (+4.6 pp)
F for course	13 (5.1%)	14 (4.3%)	+1 (-0.8 pp)
Administrative/other	9 (3.5%)	16 (4.9%)	+7 (+1.4 pp)

FINAL RECORDED PATHWAY

Pathway	2024-25 n (%) [*]	2025-26 n (%) [*]	Change n (pp)
Faculty resolution: student response	121 (47.6%)	128 (39.3%)	+7 (-8.4 pp)
Faculty resolution: no student response	75 (29.5%)	123 (37.7%)	+48 (+8.2 pp)
Facilitation	49 (19.3%)	60 (18.4%)	+11 (-0.9 pp)
Appeal	5 (2.0%)	11 (3.4%)	+6 (+1.4 pp)
Merged, other, or unreported	4 (1.6%)	4 (1.2%)	0 (-0.3 pp)

Counts in each table sum to all case records for the applicable year. Final pathway reflects the resolution type recorded in the case file; it is not a complete event history.

Note: ^{*}Unrounded percents sum to 100; displayed totals may vary slightly because of rounding.

HOW TO READ THESE TABLES

Primary sanction: The single category used to count each case once in the sanction table. When multiple actions were documented, a consistent hierarchy beginning with XF and F was applied.

Educational or restorative: Required resubmission, a tutorial, or another training assignment intended to reinforce academic-integrity expectations.

Administrative/other: Expulsion, no sanction or no violation, another documented grade action, or no documented primary sanction. This is a report grouping, not a separate policy sanction.

Facilitation: A structured conversation among the student, instructor, and an Academic Integrity Councilor. The Councilor ensures the policy and process are followed; the instructor decides whether a violation occurred and assigns the sanction.

Appeal: A review by the Academic Integrity Council when a student denies responsibility or disputes the sanction after facilitation. The Council may uphold the decision, change the sanction, or determine that no violation occurred.

Merged, other, or unreported: A reporting bucket for records merged for administrative handling, uncommon closure pathways, open cases, or records without a documented final pathway. It is not a policy outcome.

Demographic, Classification, and Course Context

RACE AND ETHNICITY (UNDERGRADUATES)

Category	2024-25 n (%) [*]	2025-26 n (%) [*]	Change n (pp)	USM Fall 2025 share [*]
Black/African American	112 (51.1%)	113 (44.3%)	+1 (-6.8 pp)	27.0%
White	82 (37.4%)	103 (40.4%)	+21 (+2.9 pp)	55.2%
Asian	13 (5.9%)	25 (9.8%)	+12 (+3.9 pp)	1.3%
Hispanic/Latino	4 (1.8%)	4 (1.6%)	0 (-0.3 pp)	4.6%
Other/not specified	8 (3.7%)	10 (3.9%)	+2 (+0.3 pp)	11.9%

MOST AI-RELATED CASE RECORDS

Course	2024-25 n (%)	2025-26 n (%)	Change n (pp)
HIS 101 World Civilization I	0 (0.0%)	57 (24.7%)	+57 (+24.7 pp)
ENG 203 World Literature	27 (24.8%)	19 (8.2%)	-8 (-16.5 pp)
ENG 101 Composition One	1 (0.9%)	19 (8.2%)	+18 (+7.3 pp)
MAR 488 Scientific Writing in Ocean Science	0 (0.0%)	9 (3.9%)	+9 (+3.9 pp)
FSC 355 Crime Scene Documentation	0 (0.0%)	7 (3.0%)	+7 (+3.0 pp)

ACADEMIC CLASSIFICATION

Classification	2024-25 n (%) [*]	2025-26 n (%) [*]	Change, n (pp)	USM Fall 2025 share [*]
Freshman	44 (18.7%)	48 (16.3%)	+4 (-2.5 pp)	15.1%
Sophomore	49 (20.9%)	64 (21.7%)	+15 (+0.8 pp)	13.7%
Junior	66 (28.1%)	62 (21.0%)	-4 (-7.1 pp)	19.5%
Senior	59 (25.1%)	80 (27.1%)	+21 (+2.0 pp)	28.2%
Graduate	14 (6.0%)	34 (11.5%)	+20 (+5.6 pp)	21.4%
Other or unreported	3 (1.3%)	7 (2.4%)	+4 (+1.1 pp)	2.1%

GENDER

Gender	2024-25 n (%) [*]	2025-26 n (%) [*]	Change n (pp)	USM Fall 2025 share [*]
Female	123 (52.3%)	173 (58.6%)	+50 (+6.3 pp)	62.0%
Male	110 (46.8%)	113 (38.3%)	+3 (-8.5 pp)	38.0%
Not recorded	2 (0.9%)	9 (3.1%)	+7 (+2.2 pp)	-

AGE

Measure	2024-25	2025-26	Change
Average age	21.4 years	23.6 years	+2.2 years
Median age	20 years	21 years	+1 year
Observed range	17-49	18-66	Min +1; max +17

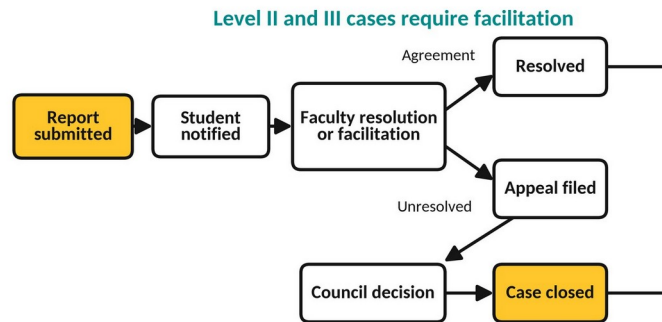
HOW TO READ PAGE 2

Demographic values use each unique student's earliest incident record: race includes all undergraduate classifications (N=219 in 2024-25; N=255 in 2025-26), while classification and gender include all students (N=235; N=295). Course n (%) values use AI-related case records (N=109; N=231). 'USM Fall 2025 share' is the group's share of the corresponding official enrollment population. For context, 2025-26 reporting rates were 40.4 per 1,000 Black undergraduates and 18.0 per 1,000 White undergraduates; these rates are not evidence of different misconduct. Course-enrollment denominators were unavailable, so course figures are not enrollment-adjusted.

Note: ^{*}Unrounded percents sum to 100; displayed totals may vary slightly because of rounding.

Academic Integrity at a Glance

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CASE FLOW



USM VIOLATION-LEVEL GUIDELINES

Level	Description
Level I	A Level I violation typically involves a low-stakes assignment as defined by the instructor of record. Possible sanctions include but are not limited to a reprimand, zero or reduced grade on the assignment, resubmission of additional or different work/assignment, taking a new exam, or lowered course grade.
Level II	A Level II violation typically involves a high-stakes assignment or work of significant import to the course as defined by the instructor of record, or a repeated violation in the same course. Level II violations require a facilitation meeting with the student, instructor of record, and an Academic Integrity Councilor.
Level III	A Level III violation typically involves a high stake or culminating assignment as defined by the instructor of record and often, though not always, with disregard to formative feedback and mentorship in the course or program. Level III violations require a facilitation meeting with the student, instructor of record, and an Academic Integrity Councilor.

WHAT AN XF MEANS

Term	Policy meaning	Undergraduate students	Graduate students
XF	An XF is a special grade entry denoting academic misconduct. It is treated as an F for grade point average and class standing.	After a first XF, an undergraduate may complete the approved remediation course to remove the X, leaving an F. The X may be removed only once.	The X-removal option is available only to undergraduates. If a graduate student's XF is upheld, the student will be dismissed from their program.

WHAT COUNTS AS ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT AT USM

Cheating: A broad category of academic misconduct characterized by an attempt to gain academic advantage through inappropriate means or impede the academic achievement of others.

Plagiarism: The use of another person's or source's words, creative works, or ideas without appropriate quotation or attribution; claiming or submitting for academic credit the work of another.

Lying: The misrepresentation of one's academic work, lying to an instructor to increase a grade, or lying regarding an academic integrity violation.

Acquiring or distributing information inappropriately: The act of distributing or obtaining course assignments or examination questions or answers from sources not approved by the instructor or proctor, including unauthorized Internet use, test banks, and previous student work.

Fabrication or falsification of data: Any statement of untruth in matters related to the academic experience, including forgery; false claims of authorship; or falsification of information, data, or results related to research or laboratory experiments.

Stealing or defacing: The act of intentionally taking, transferring, defacing, or destroying, without right or permission, any property related to the academic mission of the University, including an attempt to impede others.

Multiple submissions: The submission, more than once, without authorization by any instructors involved, of substantial portions of the same work, including oral reports or work submitted for retaken courses.

Conspiracy: The act of agreeing or planning with any person to commit any violation of the Student Academic Integrity Policy.

Unauthorized AI use: Any use of AI outside of acceptable use in the course is in violation of the Student Academic Integrity Policy at The University of Southern Mississippi.

CONTACT AND POLICY RESOURCES

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY	POLICY AND GUIDANCE
Dr. Kendrick D. Buford Academic Integrity Director The University of Southern Mississippi integrity@usm.edu Questions about evidence, referrals, facilitation, appeals, or records should be directed to the Office.	Academic Integrity website - usm.edu/academic-integrity Academic Integrity Policy Academic Integrity Process Frequently Asked Questions Violations and Sanction Guidelines USM AI syllabus policy and resources Faculty AI teaching resources