

Committee on Discipline

Andrew Whittle, outgoing chair

Jay Scheib, incoming chair

Tessa McLain, executive officer

James Reed, staff

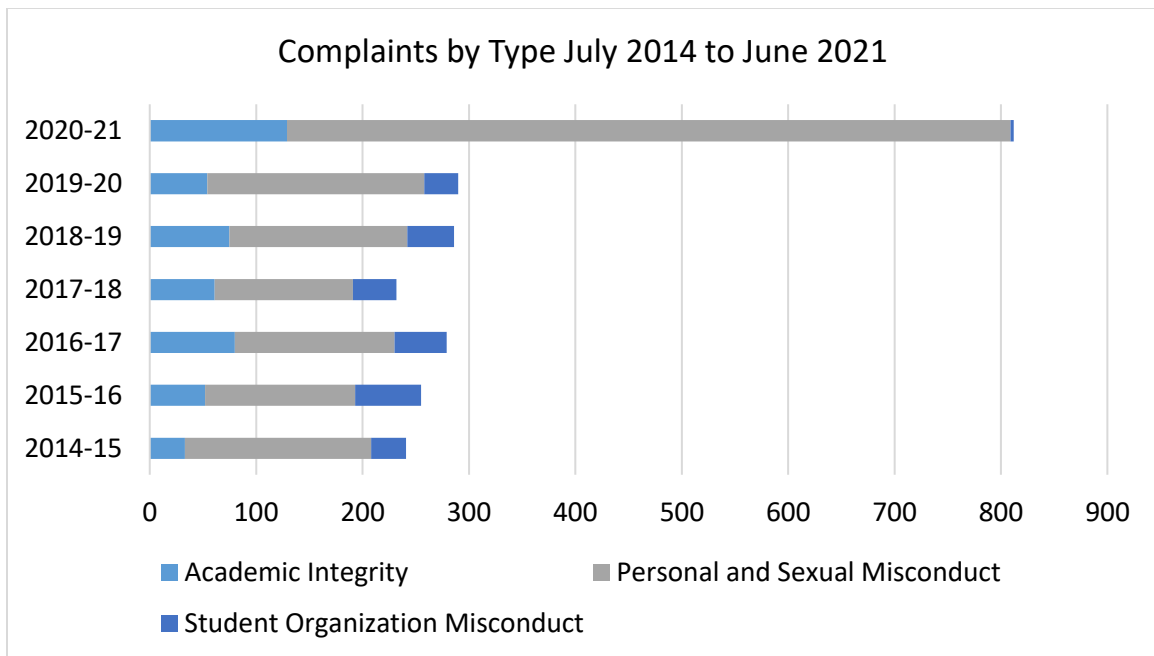
Reported Cases

There were 812 total complaints brought to the Committee on Discipline's attention in academic year 2020-2021. The Committee on Discipline (COD), chaired by Professor Andrew Whittle, resolved complaints by adjudicating cases of alleged misconduct. Of those 812 complaints, 809 (99%) were complaints alleging individual student misconduct and 3 (1%) were complaints alleging student organization misconduct.

Case Trend

The case numbers for this past year reflect the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, altered campus access, and Covid-19 policies. 78% (632) of the cases pertained to violations of Covid-19 policies. Reports of academic misconduct increased by 132%. Personal misconduct (excluding Covid-19 policies) decreased by 76%.

The following stacked bar chart shows that the number of cases reported to the COD over a seven-year period.



The tables below summarize alleged policy violations from 2020-2021 compared to previous years. There is often more than one alleged policy violation per complaint, so there are more alleged policy violations than total complaints.

Table 1 shows the types of alleged policy violations for individual student misconduct:

Alleged Policy Violations	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Covid-19 Policies	-	-	-	929
Academic Misconduct	61	87	54	129
Alcohol	55	79	98	43
Other drugs	6	22	11	0
Assault, Reckless Endangerment, Threats/Intimidation	14	25	19	5
Harassment	4	4	5	5
Property damage	9	11	25	0
Disorderly conduct	17	5	7	30
Theft	5	1	2	0
Unauthorized access/improper use MIT property	17	23	42	37
Fire Safety, Arson	17	2	4	1
Weapons	2	1	0	1
Residential and Housing policies	14	15	25	15
Institute Expectations of Behavior/Integrity	25	33	28	6
Other	11	10	6	2
Community well-being	8	8	10	2
Sexual harassment, sexual exploitation	0	5	4	4
Stalking	1	2	1	2
Nonconsensual sexual contact or penetration	1	4	5	6
Intimate Partner Violence	0	3	4	0
TOTAL ALLEGED POLICY VIOLATIONS	264	340	359	1217

Table 2 shows the types of alleged policy violations for student organization misconduct:

Alleged Policy Violations	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Covid-19 Policies	-	-	-	4
Alcohol	20	38	36	0
Other Drugs	0	3	0	0
Exceeding Occupancy	8	11	9	0
Fire Safety	1	2	0	0
Hazing	2	0	0	0

Harassment	1	0	1	0
Disorderly Conduct	5	2	2	0
Noise Complaints	7	15	8	1
Recruitment violations	0	3	3	1
Social Event Policy violations	38	49	21	1
Other	4	8	1	0
Total Alleged Policy Violations	86	131	81	8

Case Resolutions

The COD utilizes resolution methods as described in the [Rules of the Committee on Discipline](#).

Given the unique risk factors associated with students returning to campus and the need to take immediate action to address noncompliance with MIT's Covid-19 policies, the COD delegated authority to the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards ("OSCCS") to address violations of MIT's Covid-19 student and Institute-wide policies on an [expedited basis](#).

Table 3 shows the COD's resolution methods in 2020-2021 compared to previous academic years:

Resolution Type	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Covid-19 Expedited Process	-	-	-	517
Covid-19 Amnesty Application	-	-	-	12
Covid-19 Case Dismissal*	-	-	-	77
COD Administrative Resolution	119	121	152	41
COD Hearing	2	4	2	0
COD Sanctioning Panel	2	7	2	3
COD Sexual Misconduct Hearing	0	2	2	3
COD Sexual Misconduct Sanctioning Panel	1	0	0	0
Faculty Letters to File	47	62	46	109
Complainant Withdrew Case or Dismissal**	9	19	13	16
GSAP: referred to AODS***	7	7	4	0
Non-adjudicative resolution: restorative justice, mediation, referral to other office	4	20	36	28
Delegated to student-run judicial mechanism	27	30	22	1
Cases pending (as of June 30)	14	14	11	5
TOTAL	232	286	290	812

* Covid-19 Dismissal refers to the following. During the 2020 fall while data tracking for testing compliance was still in early development, 55 students were referred to our office who were found to

be in compliance upon further investigation, prior to notifying the student (hence not a finding of not responsible). Further, OSCCS received 18 reports of without a specific respondent and therefore was unable to pursue individual accountability, but still engaged in educational follow up with appropriate communities. Additionally, we received some reports that were not policy violations. In all cases where appropriate, educational interventions were utilized.

** Dismissal is not the same as a finding of not responsible. It means that the situation did not rise to the level of a possible policy violation, but still may have involved educational follow up.

*** Most GSAP cases were referred directly to AODS and only a few are referred to OSCCS because at the onset it was unclear if GSAP applied or not in the case.

Case Outcomes

COD strives to meet its educational philosophy of student accountability through intentional educational sanctions (e.g., substance use education, mentoring programs, projects, reflections, workshops, etc.). Through these structured sanctions, students learn about various interpersonal skills and are able to reflect on their own personal development. A small number of cases (0.3% in 2020-2021) require a student to be separated from the Institute, either temporarily or permanently. 99.7% of cases are resolved without suspension or expulsion.

Table 4 shows sanctions assigned during the 2020-2021 academic year, compared with the two previous years:

Sanction Type	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Degree Revocation	0	0	1	0	0
Expulsion	2	1	3	1	0
Suspension	8	4	3	2	3
Probation	34	29	25	46	17
Removal from Institute housing	2	0	0	1	2
Housing relocation	2	1	0	2	1
COD Warning	59	79	74	117	17
Covid-19 Probation*	-	-	-	-	146
Covid-19 FYI Warning**					127
Covid-19 Warning***	-	-	-	-	217
Faculty letter to file	63	47	61	48	109
Substance use education/treatment	53	58	55	88	25
Restitution	1	0	0	2	1
Other educational sanctions or referrals	181	148	138	136	326
Decision-making workshop	N/A	29	15	51	90
No contact order, directive to stay away from certain buildings	9	4	4	7	5
Academic integrity seminar	5	3	6	2	4

Note: It is common for the COD to assign more than one sanction in a case, so there are more sanctions than cases. Sanctions exclude all cases in which the respondent was found not responsible, the case was dismissed or the case is still pending.