

**Honor Council Hearing Activity
Loyola University Maryland
Annual Report: 2020-2021**

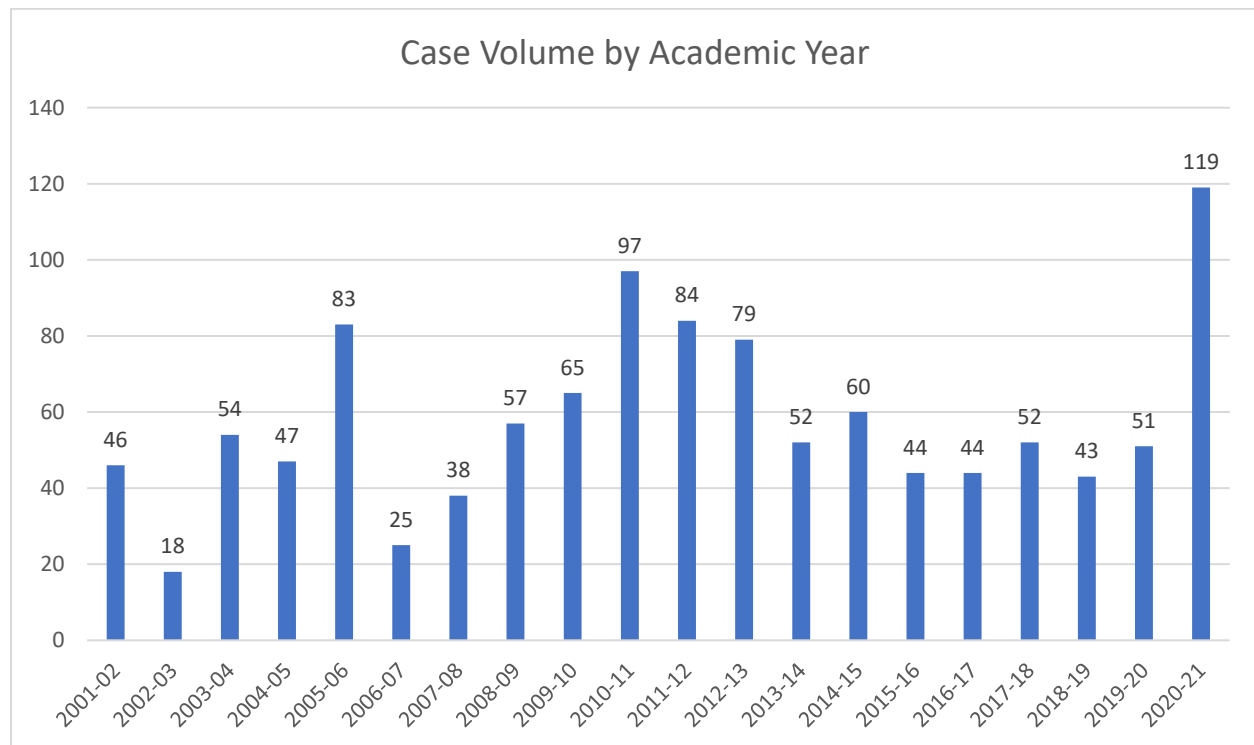
Cases Adjudicated, 2020-2021

119 completed hearings

Of these, 7 were repeat violations

107 were sanction hearings

12 were full hearings



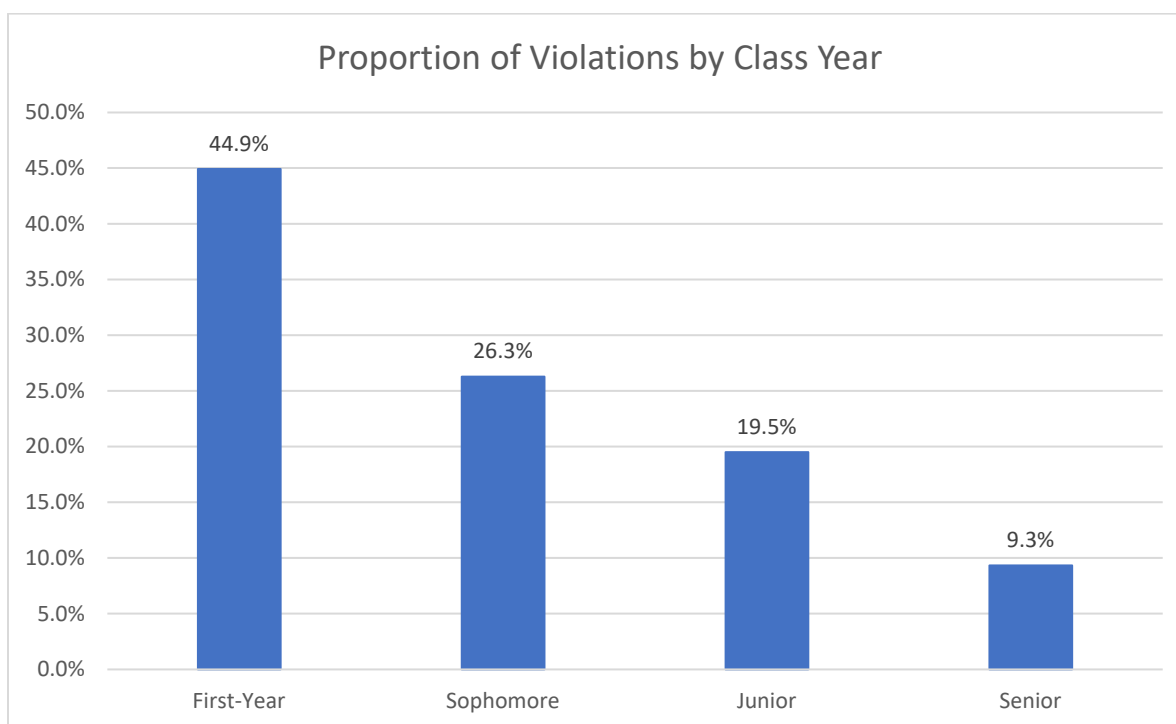
The Honor Council adjudicated 119 cases during the 2020-2021 academic year, including the summer 2021 session. This number represents 68 more cases than adjudicated the previous year, or an increase of 133%. The total number of cases was an all-time high for the Honor Council.

Reported incidents of both cheating and plagiarism more than doubled as compared to last academic year. Undoubtedly, the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the online or hybrid learning environment, contributed to the increase in cases. Anecdotal evidence from student testimony in sanction hearings pointed to factors such as difficulty adjusting to the online environment and the easy accessibility of sites such as Chegg, Bartleby, CourseHero and others commonly used for “contract cheating” to be related to more academically dishonest behaviors. In addition, remotely administered exams taken in an asynchronous format could also have allowed increased opportunity for cheating.

The Honor Council continued efforts on outreach and prevention in the 2020-2021 academic year. While the in-person first-year Convocation and the recitation of the Honor Pledge was cancelled, all first-year students completed the online academic integrity tutorial, and Honor Council representatives presented virtually in at least 7 Messina class sections to discuss the honor code and engage students in an exercise about plagiarism and proper citation.

In addition, three Honor Council Co-Chairs and Faculty Moderator Dr. Christopher Thompson gave a virtual presentation about the Honor Code and adjudication processes in April 2021. The group offered observations of trends in types of violations, and provided examples of best practices for faculty in attempting to prevent violations of the Code. Administrative Moderator Mark Lee gave a similar presentation to the Academic Senate the same month.

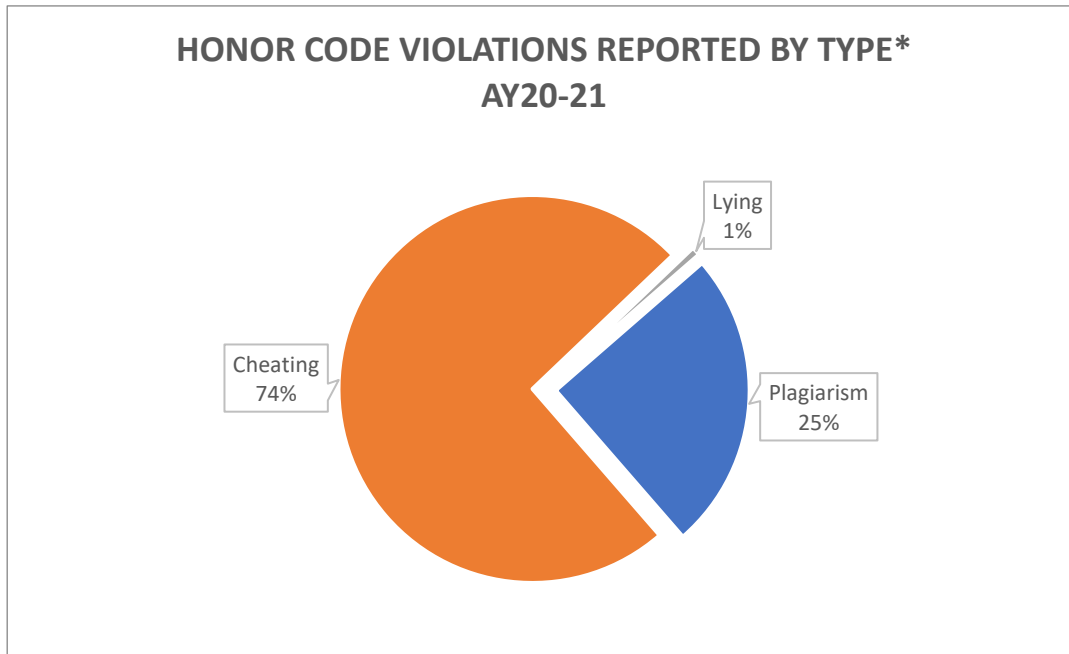
Honor Code Violations by Class Year



This chart is based on the 118 honor council cases that resulted in a finding of “responsible” in the 2020-2021 academic year. It is common for first and second-year students to have the highest representation of violations proportionally. The seven repeat violations that were adjudicated were from students in each class year (2 first-year, 1 sophomore, 3 junior, and 1 senior).

Juniors typically represent the fewest number of cases, as about half of that class studies abroad. However, no students studied abroad last year, and the more proportional representation from juniors in honor code cases this year was to be expected.

Types of Violations Adjudicated

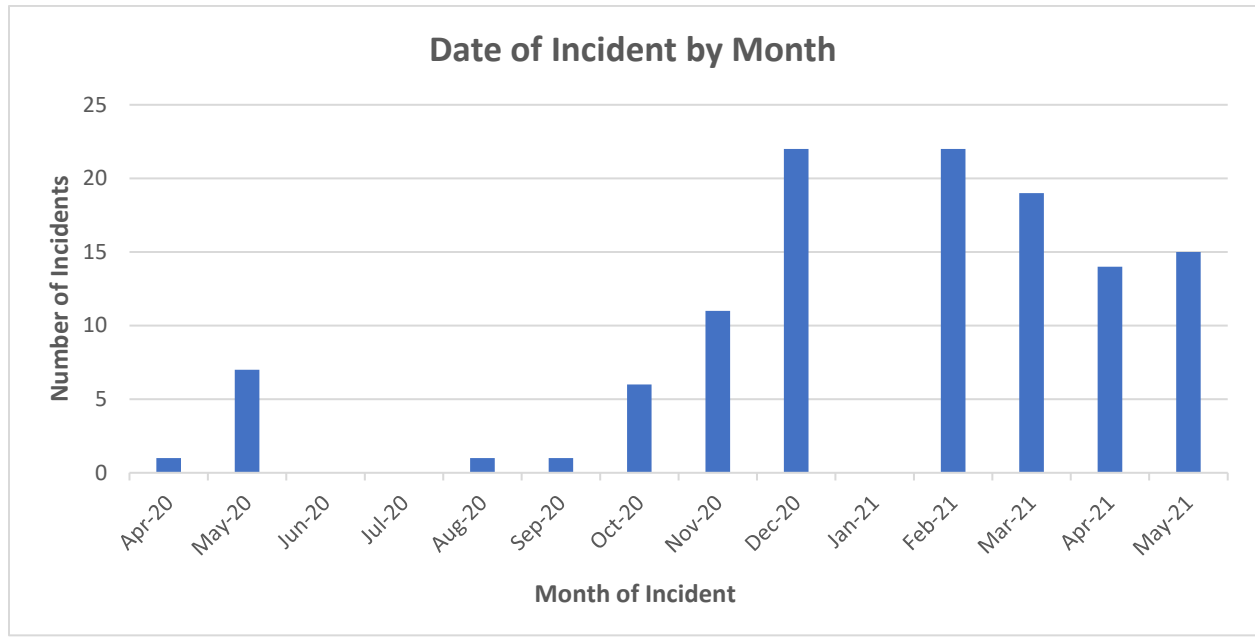


*A single report can contain multiple violations

Violation Adjudicated	Number of Incidents	Percent
Cheating	101	74.3%
Plagiarism	34	25%
Lying	1	0.7%
Total	136	100%

Among the 119 cases adjudicated during the 2020-2021 academic year, the most frequently reported violation was cheating, which was present in 74% of the incidents, followed by plagiarism, present in 25% of the reported incidents. This data continues the new pattern observed last year, where cheating was the most frequently reported type of incident. (Note that a single case report may involve more than one type of violation).

Honor Code Violations by Month

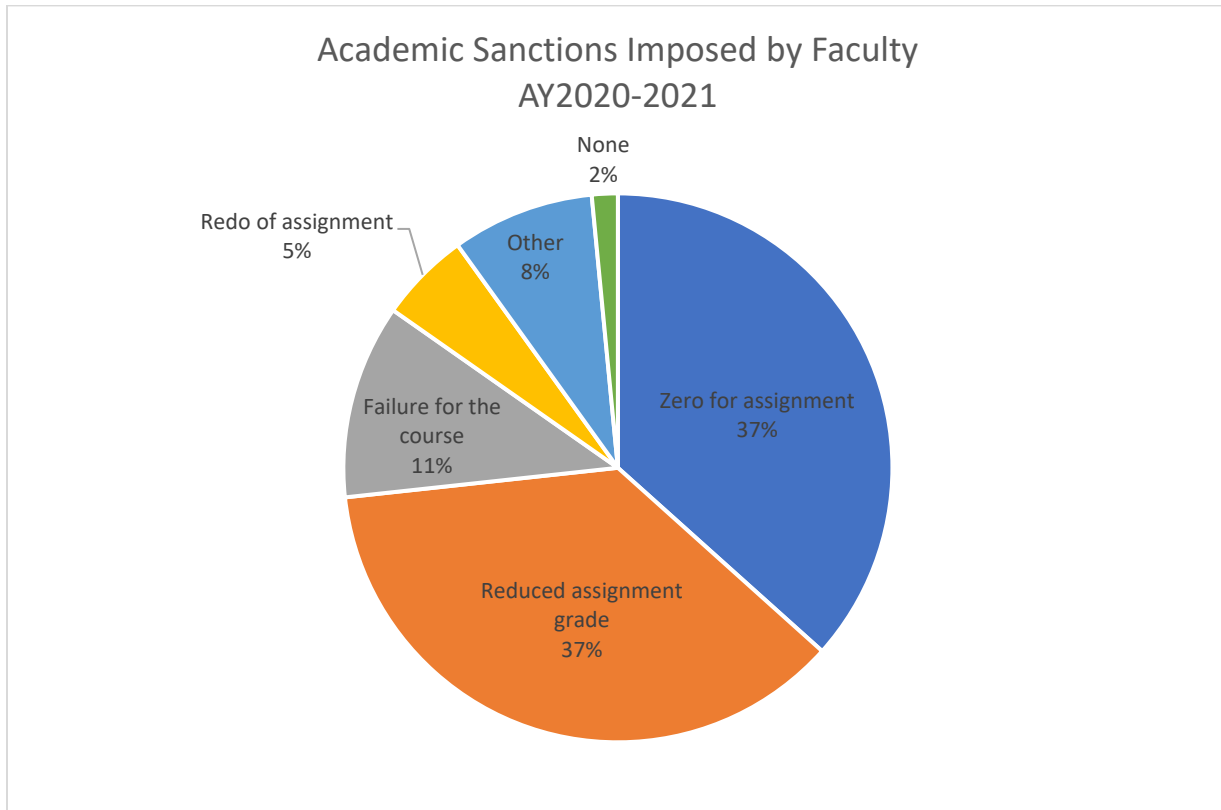


The above chart indicates the month during which each incident originally occurred, corresponding to the 119 cases adjudicated during the 2020-2021 academic year. While it is common to see a spike of cases at midterms and finals, the number of incidents did not abate after December exams; rather, incidents continued to be relatively high throughout the spring 2021 semester.

It is also likely that many cases went unreported by faculty, who faced significant challenges in teaching in multiple formats. While a number of faculty began to learn more about the various ways that some students could cheat in the completion of assignments, tests, and exams, some also felt overwhelmed by the number of cases.

Because of the number of cases, the Honor Council conducted hearings through the summer 2021 semester. Six outstanding cases will “roll over” for adjudication during the 2021-2022 academic year. Nine cases in the Fall of 2020 were adjudicated for incidents that occurred the previous spring.

Academic Sanctions Imposed by Faculty



Academic Sanctions Imposed by Faculty	Frequency	Percent
Zero for the assignment / exam	48	36.6%
Reduced grade for assignment / exam (not zero)	48	36.6%
Failure for the course	15	11.5%
Redo / Resubmission of assignment	7	5.3%
Other	11	8.4%
No academic sanction	2	1.5%
Total	131	100%

During the 2020-2021 academic year, all adjudicated Honor Code cases were reported by faculty, who generally impose an academic sanction separate from any Honor Council sanctions. Each case can carry more than one academic sanction.

Outcomes of Hearings

The Honor Council adjudicated 12 of its 119 cases as full hearings during the 2020-2021 academic year. The Council conducts a full hearing when a student contests an accusation by not accepting responsibility for the reported violation. In one case, the accused student was found “not responsible” for an honor code violation.

Sanctions Imposed by Honor Council

Honor Council Sanction	Frequency	Percent
Reflection Paper	69	32.2%
Deferred Academic Suspension	37	17.3%
Apology to Professor	32	15.0%
Academic Integrity Seminar	23	10.7%
Consultation @ The Study	22	10.3%
Recommendation for Suspension	10	4.7%
Consultation @ Writing Center	9	4.2%
No additional sanctions	8	3.7%
Repeat Academic Integrity Tutorial	4	1.9%
Total	214	100%

*A single case can receive multiple sanctions

Honor Council panels may impose sanctions in addition to the academic sanctions assigned by the accusing faculty member. Honor Council sanctions are primarily educative, with an aim to assist the student in realizing the impact of a violation on the greater community, and when appropriate, to provide appropriate referrals in an effort to prevent mistakes from occurring again. In instances of repeat or more egregious violations, however, punitive measures are sometimes taken.

Violations Reported by Department

Academic Department	Frequency	Percent
Biology	23	19.3%
Mathematics and Statistics	22	18.5%
Physics	15	12.6%
Modern Languages, Classics	11	9.2%
History	9	7.6%
Chemistry	8	6.7%
Computer Science	7	5.9%
Economics	5	4.2%
English	5	4.2%
Engineering	4	3.4%
Political Science	4	3.4%
Philosophy	3	2.5%
Theology	2	1.7%
Sociology	1	0.8%
Total	119	100.0%

The majority of reported cases were from the natural sciences and mathematics disciplines. The Council observed not only unauthorized access of websites and course materials in the completion of tests and exams, but also the use of unauthorized online tools, calculators, and translators. Many of these tools are free, and are easily accessible.

Appendix A:
Honor Council Membership

Co-Chairs

Ryan Brooks
Emma Petruzzelli
Sofia Rama
Madison Ross

Deputy Co-Chairs (Summer 2021)

Avinash Ali
Janae James
Josefina Munoz Nogales
Journie Orozco

Panel Members

Avinash Ali
Daniel Ayd
Romie Azor
Gillian Borton
Madeleine Brenner
Ryan Brooks
James Burke
Gianna Cavallaro
Nicholas Commander
Taylor Dolan
Janae James
Peter Kelley
Mackenzie Kirby
Emily Marquardt
Zachary Mazuchowski
Josefina Munoz Nogales
Chloe O'Hara
Journie Orozco
Benjamin Oswald
Emma Petruzzelli
Siena Pizzano
Edmundo Pribitkin
Sofia Rama
Madison Ross
Alan Schlanger
Pierce Shearin
Sophia Spedden
Sophia Theodore
Claire Volz
Alexandra White

Faculty Moderators

Jeffrey Barnett

Prince Chidyagwai

John Dougherty

Joseph Farrell

Theresa Jefferson

Michael Knapp

Jeffrey Lating

Christopher Thompson

Administrative Moderator

Mark Lee