

2 July 2021

Via email: fyi-request-15497-4c8e2a0d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Sarah,

I am responding on behalf of the University to your recent OIA request, in which you have asked for information relating to Massey University's academic misconduct incidents and/or disciplinary cases.

Massey University's Student Academic Integrity Policy provides a framework for the management of allegations of breaches of academic integrity by students. Academic integrity comprises all forms of scholastic honesty, and examples of breaches include but are not limited to plagiarism, cheating, and the use of copied or falsified data.

The principles underpinning the process for managing breaches of academic integrity at Massey are primarily educative but also disciplinary and reflect the level of seriousness of any allegation. There are three levels of seriousness (Levels 1, 2, and 3). The level of seriousness dictates who is responsible for dealing with an allegation, and the range and severity of possible outcomes also increases as the level increases.

For full detail please refer to our [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#) and to the [Procedure for Managing Breaches of Academic Integrity](#). Please note that Level 1 breaches are dealt with informally by Academic Integrity Officers and that only confirmed level 2 and 3 breaches of academic integrity are recorded in the academic integrity register.

For the purpose of this response, we are considering that a breach of academic integrity is 'academic misconduct'.

I respond to each part of your request as follows:

1. How many Massey University students were disciplined and/or investigated for general academic misconduct in 2020?

0.53% of Massey students had an allegation of a Level 2 or 3 breach of academic integrity upheld (i.e. 164 from a total of 30,653 students HC) in 2020.

We do not centrally record the number of investigations into allegations of breaches of academic integrity and refer again to our procedures which outline the process for undertaking an initial assessment of an allegation.

2. How much has the rate of cheating at Massey University increased or decreased by among students since 2019?

In 2019, 0.48% of Massey students had an allegation of a Level 2 or 3 breach of academic integrity upheld (i.e. 149 from a total of 30,491 students HC).

The difference between 2020 and 2019 figures represent a 0.05% increase in confirmed breaches of academic integrity.

3. Have any students been expelled or suspended for academic misconduct since January 2017?

There have been 5 suspensions or exclusions since 2017.

4. Have any BVSc pre-vet students been accused and/or penalised for academic misconduct in the four core pre-vet papers in 2020? Have these students been allowed to remain in the degree?

Students can be enrolled in BVSc preselection and then decide not to apply for BVSc, so the following data is based on students who enrolled in BVSc preselection in 2020, and then progressed to BVSc in 2021.

- There were 18 students enrolled in BVSc preselection in 2020 who were investigated for breaches of academic integrity.
- Of these 16 were cleared after investigation and 2 received penalties.
- Of the 16 who were cleared, 6 went on to be selected into the BVSc programme.
- Of the two who received penalties neither progressed to enrolment into the BVSc.

I trust this is the information you require.

Ngā mihi,

Jodie Banner
Director of Governance and Assurance