

# UNIVERSITY POLICIES

## Aggie Honor Code

Integrity is a fundamental core value of Texas A&M University. Academic integrity requires a commitment by all faculty, students, and administrators to:

- Remain constantly focused on the quality of the academic programs
- Achieve and maintain academic excellence in all courses and programs to assure the value of Texas A&M University degrees
- Demand high academic standards from all members of the Aggie community
- Actively promote academic integrity
- Confront instances of academic misconduct through engagement in the Aggie Honor System Office rules and procedures

All Texas A&M University students, graduate and undergraduate, part-time or full-time, in residence or in distance education, are expected to follow the guiding rule of the Aggie Honor Code:

*“An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.”*

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University or one of its branch campuses, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. A student will be required to state his/her commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the Texas A&M community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System.

The Honor System Office is charged with promotion of the honor code and administration of academic misconduct cases. The Honor Council, comprised of students and faculty from colleges and offices across the University, will investigate all such infractions of the honor code and recommend appropriate sanctions. The website, <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>, defines the types of infractions and the possible consequences. Students are urged to review this information.

In addition to adherence to the Honor Code, a student (graduate students in particular) who is completing a thesis, record of study, dissertation, and publication may fall under the additional federal requirements promulgated by the Office of Research Integrity (Scientific Misconduct Regulations – 42 CFR part 50), as well as Texas A&M System Regulations and Texas A&M University Rules (Texas A&M System Regulations – Ethics in Research, Scholarship and Creative Work – 15.99.03 (<https://www.tamus.edu/legal/policy/policy-and-regulation-library/>), and Texas A&M University rules and standard administrative procedures – Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship – 15.99.03.M1, 15.99.03. M1.01-06 (<http://rules-saps.tamu.edu/TAMURulesAndSAPs.aspx#15>)).

Contact information for each campus can be found at the following:

- Texas A&M University website - <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>
- Texas A&M at Galveston website - <https://www.tamug.edu/HonorSystem/>
- Texas A&M at Qatar website - <https://www.qatar.tamu.edu/students/academic-services/aggie-honor-system> ([https://](https://www.qatar.tamu.edu/students/academic-services/aggie-honor-system/)

[www.qatar.tamu.edu/students/academic-services/aggie-honor-system/](http://www.qatar.tamu.edu/students/academic-services/aggie-honor-system/)

## Aggie Honor System Office

<http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>

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Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student.

Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one's work, should the instructor request it, is sufficient grounds to initiate an academic dishonesty case.

## Professional Practice Academic Appeals Panel and Process

The Professional Practice Appeals Panel (PPAP), formerly First Professional Appeals Panel, will hear appeals regarding allegations of due process violations only, after all administrative processes related to

- (a) suspensions, dismissals, or blocks for scholastic deficiency in a student's academic program; and
- (b) appeals of disputes over final course grades have been exhausted in professional practice programs (DDS, DNP, JD, MD, PharmD, DVM).

Texas A&M University Student Rules Part III, Section 62 (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule62/>) describe the Professional Practice Appeals Panel Process in detail. Please carefully review Section 62 before pursuing a grievance. Professional practice students are also strongly encouraged to seek clarification and advice regarding appropriate grievance procedures.

A valuable resource for questions regarding grievances and appeals, the Graduate Ombuds Officer advocates for the processes of graduate education and provides equal, open access to all parties: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. To set up an appointment with the Graduate Ombuds Officer, email [ombuds@tam.u.edu](mailto:ombuds@tam.u.edu).

## Instructions for Securing a Hearing Before the Professional Practice Appeals Panel

To secure a hearing with the Professional Practice Appeals Panel, please follow these procedures:

Complete the Form to Request a Hearing (<https://grad.tamu.edu/getmedia/1d8fe301-d98b-47aa-832f-29f719cf2df8/FPAP-Form-to-Request-a-Hearing.pdf>), indicating an intention to appeal to the Professional Practice Appeals Panel. This form must be completed and emailed to the Associate Provost and Dean of the Graduate and

Professional School within ten (10) university business days after receiving the dean’s (or designee’s) letter from the professional college/ school notifying the student of the outcome of a hearing in the academic unit in which the student is enrolled.

For additional information, see the Professional Practice Appeals page (<https://grad.tamu.edu/knowledge-center/forms/request-hearing-before-first-professional-appeals-panel/>) on the Graduate and Professional School website.

## Graduate Academic Appeals Panel and Process

The Graduate Academic Appeals Panel (GAAP) is governed by the most current version of Texas A&M University Student Rule 59 (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule59/>) (Graduate Academic Appeals Panel).

Graduate students who believe that decisions about unauthorized absences, final grades, the outcome of evaluation of performance on examinations, or decisions about separation (e.g., probation, suspension, dismissal, or termination) from a department, interdisciplinary degree program, and/or college/school for scholastic deficiency were made on an arbitrary, capricious, or prejudicial basis may appeal such decisions through the appeals process specified in Student Rule 59. In such appeals, the burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate that the decisions in question were arbitrary, capricious, or prejudiced.

The decision to request action by the Graduate Academic Appeals Panel means that:

1. the student has appealed to the faculty (for final grades), department head or chair of the interdisciplinary degree program, and then the dean of the college administering the student’s degree; and
2. the actions recommended at each level are unsatisfactory to the student.

For additional information, see the Student Grievances and Appeals Procedures page (<https://grad.tamu.edu/knowledge-center/policies-process/what-is-the-process-for-holding-a-graduate-academic-appeals-panel/>) on the Graduate and Professional School website.

## Student Grievances and Appeals Procedures

Specific procedures at Texas A&M University allow graduate students to pursue a grievance for any of the problems, issues, or concerns listed in the table below. Professional Practice students can pursue disputes over due process. **Before** initiating a grievance, students are strongly encouraged to seek clarification and advice from the Graduate and Professional Student Ombuds Office (<https://grad.tamu.edu/academics/academic-success-resources/conflict-resolution/ombuds-services/>) regarding appropriate procedures. The Ombuds Officer represents a valuable resource for questions regarding grievances and appeals. The Ombuds Officer advocates for the processes of graduate and professional education and provides equal, open access to all parties: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. To set up an appointment with the Graduate Ombuds Officer, contact [ombuds@tamu.edu](mailto:ombuds@tamu.edu).

Type of Grievance/Issue	A&M Student Rule	University Panel Handling Appeals	Appeals Panel Preliminary and Formal Resolution Procedures
Discrimination and Discrimination Appeals	45 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule45/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule45/</a> )	Discrimination Appeals Panel	56 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule56/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule56/</a> )
Disability Accommodations in Academic Programs	46 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule46/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule46/</a> )	Discrimination Appeals Panel	56 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule56/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule56/</a> )
Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and/or Stalking	47 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule47/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule47/</a> )	University Disciplinary Appeals Panel	58 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule58/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule58/</a> )
Grade Disputes	48 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule48/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule48/</a> )	Graduate Academic Appeals Panel	59 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule59/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule59/</a> )
Unexcused Absences	49 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule49/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule49/</a> )	Graduate Academic Appeals Panel	59 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule59/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule59/</a> )
Academic Suspension and Blocks	50 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule50/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule50/</a> )	Graduate Academic Appeals Panel	59 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule59/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule59/</a> )
Student Conduct Separation and Appeal	51 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule51/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule51/</a> )	University Disciplinary Panel	58 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule58/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule58/</a> )
Academic Misconduct	52 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule52/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule52/</a> )	Aggie Honor System Office	Aggie Honor System Appeals Process ( <a href="https://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/Rules-and-Procedures/Procedures/Adjudication-Process/#20244%20Appeals%20Process">https://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/Rules-and-Procedures/Procedures/Adjudication-Process/#20244%20Appeals%20Process</a> )
Graduate Student Examination Evaluation Disputes	53 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule53/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule53/</a> )	Graduate Academic Appeals Panel	59 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule59/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule59/</a> )
Financial Assessments by the University	54 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule54/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule54/</a> )	Head of Department or Unit Involved	Student Fiscal Appeal Process ( <a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:80e22ec5-cc4f-4131-85fa-645e786beb">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:80e22ec5-cc4f-4131-85fa-645e786beb</a> )

Parking Citations	55 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule55/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule55/</a> )	Student Parking Appeals Board	Citation Appeals Process ( <a href="http://transport.tamu.edu/Parking/appeal.aspx">http://transport.tamu.edu/Parking/appeal.aspx</a> )
Disputes over Due Process (Professional Practice Students Only)	62 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule62/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule62/</a> )	Professional Practice Academic Appeals Panel	62 ( <a href="http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule62/">http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule62/</a> )

## University Student Rules

Each student enrolled at Texas A&M University is responsible for being fully acquainted with and complying with the Texas A&M University Student Rules. Specific rules, information, and procedures may be found in publications pertaining to each particular service or department. Graduate students are encouraged to reference the Student Rules website (<https://student-rules.tamu.edu/>) for current published rules and regulations.

***For information concerning federal and state policies, please reference the appendices (<https://catalog.tamu.edu/graduate/appendices/>) in this catalog.***