

Committee on Discipline

Tamar Schapiro, chair

Tessa McLain, executive officer (July 2024 – January 2025)

James Reed, staff (July 2024 – January 2025), interim executive officer (January 2025 – June 2025)

Katelyn Hebel, staff

Reported Cases

There were 463 total complaints brought to the Committee on Discipline's (COD) attention in academic year 2024-2025. The COD, chaired by Professor Tamar Schapiro, resolved complaints by adjudicating cases of alleged misconduct.

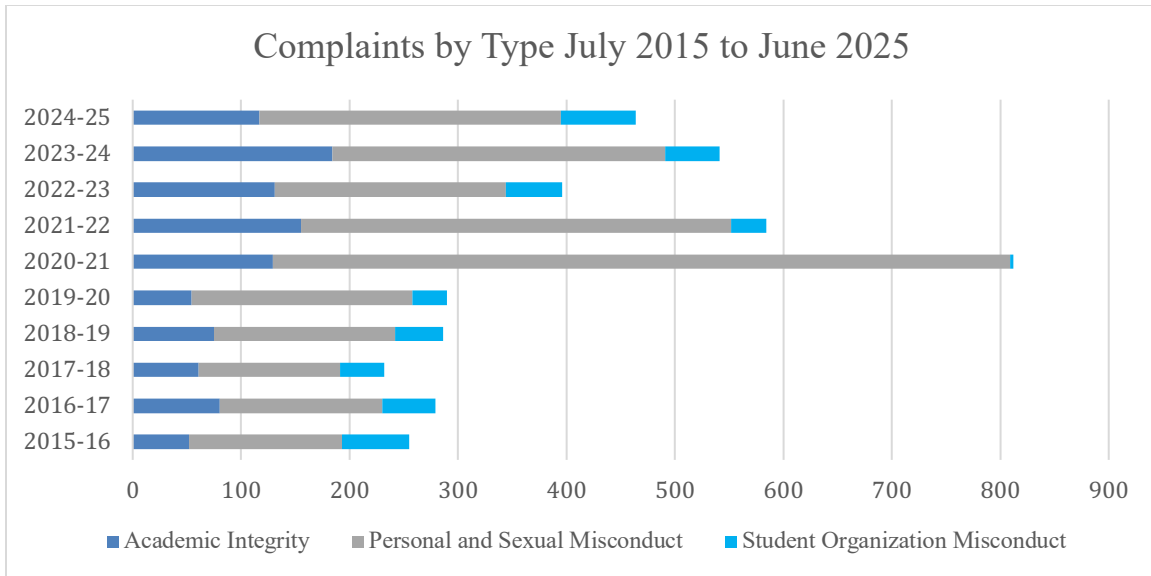
Overview of COD Process

An individual can submit a report or complaint of potential student/student organization misconduct to the COD via the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (OSCCS) or the Institute Discrimination Harassment and Response (IDHR) Office. When received, staff from either OSCCS or IDHR review the complaint to determine the policies that were potentially violated and may reach out to the reporting party or others as needed for additional information.

After review, the student(s) alleged to have violated policies ("respondents") are invited to an initial response meeting, where they are given an opportunity to respond to the allegations and learn more about the COD's process for resolving potential policy violations. Respondents may also submit a written statement. Then, OSCCS staff will review the respondent's case with the Chair of the COD to determine how the case is resolved – either by administrative resolution (where the Chair makes a decision in consultation with OSCCS), or via a hearing or sanctioning panel of the COD. The determination of which resolution method to use depends on the Chair's preliminary assessment of the possible sanctions that could be considered based on the nature of the case. Cases in which the Chair determines that more severe sanctions, such as suspension or expulsion, may be considered, or certain cases involving sexual misconduct, can only be resolved through a hearing or sanctioning panel.

Case Type

Of the 463 complaints reported to COD, 394 (85%) were complaints alleging individual student misconduct and 69 (15%) were complaints alleging student organization misconduct. The total reported number of cases decreased by 14% from the prior year. Reports of academic misconduct decreased by 36%. Student organization misconduct reports increased by 38%, while personal and sexual misconduct reports decreased by 10%.



The above stacked bar chart, entitled “Complaints by Type July 2015 to June 2025,” shows the number of cases reported to the COD over a ten-year period. The chart shows the number of cases reported to the COD in each academic year: 255 cases in 2015-2016, 279 cases in 2016-2017, 232 cases in 2017-2018, 286 cases in 2018-2019, 290 cases in 2019-2020, 812 cases in 2020-2021, 584 cases in 2021-2022, 396 cases in 2022-2023, 541 cases in 2023-2024, and 463 cases in 2024-2025 as noted above.

Case Resolution Methods

The COD utilizes resolution methods as described in the [Rules of the Committee on Discipline](#). Many cases result in disciplinary proceedings; however, some cases either do not rise to a policy violation or are situations where the reporting party does not want to pursue discipline. In such cases, the OSCCS works to support appropriate referrals or non-adjudicative resolutions, often in consultation with the COD Chair, IDHR, or other campus partners.

Table 1 shows the COD’s resolution methods in 2024-2025 and the three previous academic years:

Resolution Type	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
<i>COD Action</i>				
COD administrative resolution	108	135	180	164
COD hearing	1	1	4	12
COD sanctioning panel	2	2	0	2
COD sexual misconduct panel	0	1	0	4
Faculty letters to file	129	102	157	96

Delegated to student-run judicial mechanism	32	24	23	17
<i>Non-adjudicative resolution methods</i>				
Help-seeking amnesty	1	21	13	16
Referred to IDHR	-	-	8	6
Referred to Residential Life	-	-	3	4
Restorative practices/mediation, educational referral to other office	21	67	18	47
Housing security warning letter	-	-	58	56
Combined with other case (duplicate reported information/case consolidation)	-	-	18	8
<i>Unable to proceed</i>				
Complainant withdrew case or dismissal	18	33	-	-
Complaint withdrawn	-	-	15	5
Case dismissal*	-	-	20	12
Unknown respondent			18	5
<i>Methods no longer in use</i>				
Covid-19 expedited process	246	-	-	-
Covid-19 amnesty application	0	-	-	-
Covid-19 case dismissal	16	-	-	-
Cases pending (as of June 30)	10	10	6	9
Total	584	396	541	463

* Dismissal is not the same as a finding of not responsible. It means that either the reported information was unable to be verified or the situation did not rise to the level of a possible policy violation. Many dismissed cases still involve resources, referrals, or educational follow-up.

This year an unusually large number of cases went to hearing or sanctioning panels. The cases were varied, and there is no single factor that explains the increase.

Case Outcomes

When a student or student organization is found responsible for violating MIT policy, the COD strives to hold students accountable in the most constructive way possible by issuing appropriate [sanctions](#). The range of possible sanctions can include informal warning, formal warning, probation, suspension, and expulsion. For cases involving [former students](#), degree revocation is an option.

The COD may impose additional sanctions in conjunction with any of the described sanctions above, including sanctions designed to educate the respondent or ensure that other community members have equal access to MIT's programs or activities. Additional sanctions may include but are not limited to:

- restrictions on interactions with individuals or offices
- restrictions on being in certain campus locations
- restitution for damage caused
- restrictions on or removal from activities (e.g., prevention of participation in athletics or student organizations; ineligibility for participation in designated programs; ineligibility for service as an officer or in a leadership role in student organizations, on Institute committees, or on athletics teams; and/or other appropriate actions)
- loss of privileges or benefits
- suspension of organizational activities (e.g., social events, meetings)
- removal from housing or relocation to another housing location
- restriction on use of student organizational funds, ability to reserve space, the Institute network, or other MIT resources, including use of the MIT name/logo
- mandatory training or other educational activities (e.g., essays, research projects)
- other sanctions as the COD deems appropriate

When possible, through intentional educational sanctions (e.g., substance use education, mentoring programs, projects, reflections, workshops, etc.), the COD tries to pair accountability with opportunities to learn and grow. Through these structured sanctions, students learn about various interpersonal skills and are able to reflect on their own personal development.

Table 2 shows sanctions assigned during 2024-2025 and the three previous academic years:

Sanction Type	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
<i>Status Sanctions</i>				
Degree revocation	0	1	0	1
Expulsion	0	1	0	1
Suspension (including held in abeyance)*	3	1	1	5
Probation	13	25	61	57
Formal discipline warning	64	103	68	71
Informal warning	-	43	99	92
Faculty letter to file (academic)	136	105	157	96
<i>Additional Sanctions</i>				
Removal from Institute housing	0	1	0	0
Housing relocation	2	1	0	1

No contact order, directive to stay away from certain buildings	2	5	23	27
Restitution	2	5	0	1
<i>Educational Sanctions</i>				
Substance use education/assessment	20	67	98	38
Decision-making workshop	18	23	14	30
Building healthy relationships through empathy workshop	5	2	3	1
Academic integrity seminar/workshop	9	17	18	12
Mentoring and personal development plan program	5	3	5	5
Other educational sanctions and referrals	62	148	84	88
<i>Sanctions no longer in use</i>				
<i>Covid-19 probation</i>	14	-	-	-
<i>Covid-19 FYI warning</i>	161	-	-	-
<i>Covid-19 warning</i>	69	-	-	-

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

* The COD added informal warning and the option to hold suspensions in abeyance to its [range of sanctions](#) in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Types of Allegations

The COD received reports of information about a variety of alleged behaviors. The tables below summarize alleged policy violations from 2024-2025 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. MIT published guidelines and rules regarding campus protests and demonstrations in November 2023 and updated these guidelines and rules several times. The COD received reports of behaviors violating these rules and guidelines as shown below.

Table 3 shows the types of *alleged* policy violations for individual student misconduct:

Alleged Policy Violations	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Academic misconduct	160	135	184	121
Alcohol	49	62	67	31
Other drugs	13	7	3	6

Assault, reckless endangerment	2	6	8	11
Threats/intimidation	3	6	12	26
Assault, reckless endangerment, threats/intimidation	-	-	-	-
Property damage	15	5	17	13
Disorderly conduct	5	21	52	45
Theft	21	8	2	13
Unauthorized access/improper use MIT property	17	11	12	33
Fire safety, arson	1	3	3	3
Weapons	0	2	3	1
Residential and housing policies	86	73	76	96
Institute expectations of behavior/integrity (directives, no contact orders, guidelines)	19	6	11	42
Institute expectations: protest and demonstration guidelines and rules	-	-	52	19
Campus Protests and Demonstrations‡	-	-	-	26
Harassment*	6	14	25	26
Sexual harassment, sexual exploitation*	2	2	2	6
Stalking*	2	5	1	1
Nonconsensual sexual contact or penetration*	4	3	0	6
Intimate partner violence*	0	0	0	2
Other	15	7	0	15
<i>Covid-19 policies</i>	326	-	-	-
Total Alleged Policy Violations	746	376	527	542

*MIT's Institute Discrimination and Harassment Response (IDHR) Office receives many reports of alleged policy violations that are not included in these numbers. Of the reports IDHR receives, some may not fall under COD jurisdiction. If a complaint falls under COD jurisdiction, and if the complainant opts to pursue COD action, IDHR determines whether an investigation is warranted. For further information, please review the IDHR Annual Report: <https://idhr.mit.edu/our-office/annual-reports>

‡ These cases were categorized as Institute Expectations of Student Behavior and Integrity prior to the 2024-25 Academic Year.

Table 4 shows the types of *alleged* policy violations for student organization misconduct:

Alleged Policy Violations	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
<i>Covid-19 policies</i>	20	-	-	-
Alcohol	10	27	17	13
Other drugs	0	0	1	1
Exceeding occupancy	1	5	0	3
Fire safety	2	0	0	2
Hazing	1	1	2	1
Harassment	0	0	6	11
Disorderly conduct	1	1	15	4
Noise complaints	4	10	14	15
Recruitment violations	2	0	0	3
Social event policy violations	11	93	61	56
Campus Protests and Demonstrations*	-	-	4	1
Institute expectations of behavior/integrity	-	-	-	13
Threats/intimidation	-	-	-	20
Improper Use of Institute Logo	-	-	-	12
Other	4	12	5	10
Total Alleged Policy Violations	56	149	122	165

* These cases were categorized as Institute Expectations of Student Behavior and Integrity prior to the 2024-25 Academic Year.