<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Meet the OSCCS Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Mission Statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Committee on Discipline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Mind and Hand Book</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Reporting an Incident</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Incident Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Resolution Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Facilitating Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Contact Us</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MEET THE
OSCCS TEAM

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Associate Dean
Student Conduct &
Community Standards

James Reed
Assistant Dean
Student Conduct &
Community Standards

Katelyn Hebel
Assistant Director
Student Conduct &
Community Standards

Anna Takahama
Program Assistant
Student Conduct &
Community Standards
MISSION STATEMENT

The Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (OSCCS) facilitates student growth and learning through an educational conduct process that upholds MIT's values and community standards.

How We Fulfill Our Mission

The OSCCS fulfills our mission by supporting students and collaborating with the Committee on Discipline and campus partners. We facilitate the MIT student conduct process, advise student judicial committees, and offer a wide array of workshops and presentations to help students understand community values and standards. We work to promote community standards of behavior and support the academic mission of the Institute by enhancing students' academic achievement as well as personal and ethical development.

Commitment to Inclusive Practices

We are committed to carrying out our work in a manner that meets the needs of our diverse community. We do this by:

- Continually educating ourselves & our stakeholders
- Intentionally engaging in inclusive practices
- Striving to refine our procedures to reduce bias
- Appreciating students' intersecting identities and acknowledging our own power and privilege

We pledge to implement the above strategies. Furthermore, we understand that inclusive practices are always evolving, and thus commit to regularly revisit these strategies.
COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE

MIT expects its students to uphold the highest standards of respect, integrity, and civility. In this context, the Committee on Discipline (COD) was created to resolve complaints of alleged violations of policies and community standards by a student, former student, or student organization in a way that is objective and educational. The procedure that the COD uses to hear and respond to such complaints is described in the COD Rules and Regulations. These procedures are designed to ensure equity and fairness to involved parties.

COD Chairs: Professor Jay Scheib (outgoing) & Professor Tamar Schapiro (incoming)
The Mind and Hand Book is MIT's official guide to its expectations of all undergraduate and graduate students. The Mind and Hand Book details Institute policies on academic integrity, alcohol, drugs, sexual misconduct, and other essential matters. Each year students are made aware of Institute expectations through an annual communications campaign.

The Mind and Hand Book is updated annually by the Student Policy Review Committee (SPRC). SPRC is comprised of faculty, staff, and student representatives from the Undergraduate Association and Graduate Student Council.
REPORTING AN INCIDENT

Complaints or incident reports that allege MIT students or student organizations have violated Institute policy should be directed to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards ("OSCCS"). Complaints against MIT faculty and staff should be directed to Human Resources.

- Use the OSCCS's online form - complete with as much detail as possible
- Contact OSCCS directly by emailing osccs@mit.edu
- Set up a meeting with an OSCCS staff member
- Call OSCCS at 617-258-8423
INCIDENT DATA

The OSCCS received 396 total reports in the 2022-2023 academic year. These reports are broken down into three broad categories:

Academic Integrity  ●  Personal & Sexual Misconduct  ●  Student Organization Misconduct

Of those 396 complaints, 54% were complaints alleging individual personal or sexual misconduct, 33% were complaints alleging academic misconduct, and 13% were complaints alleging student organization misconduct.

During 2020-2022 we experienced a peak in case numbers due to Covid-19 policy violations. This year’s case numbers no longer include Covid-19 policy violations as those policies were phased out.
2022-2023 INCIDENT DATA

While our total numbers decreased this year due to the change in Covid-19 policies, reports of misconduct (excluding Covid-19 policies) increased by 31% from the 2021-2022 academic year.

The figure to the right outlines the MIT affiliation of the "Respondent" (or responding party) in complaints against students at MIT.
The COD utilizes resolution methods as described in the Rules of the Committee on Discipline. The table below shows the COD’s resolution methods in 2022-2023:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution Method</th>
<th>Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COD Administrative Resolution</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegation to Student-run Judicial Mechanism</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COD Hearing or Sanctioning Panel</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-adjudicative Resolution</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COD Sexual Misconduct Hearing or Sanctioning Panel</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help-Seeking Amnesty - Referred to Alcohol &amp; Other Drug Services</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaint Withdrawn or Case Dismissal</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Integrity Faculty Letters to File</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: as of June 30, 2023 ten cases remained active without resolution and are not reflected above.

When a student is found responsible for violating policies, the COD assigns appropriate sanctions as a part of the outcome. The pie chart below shows the breakdown assigned status sanctions last year.
RESOLUTION INFORMATION

As we adapted to changing environments around hybrid meetings, OSCCS gave students the opportunity to choose if they wanted to meet in person or remotely for their Initial Response Meeting (IRM) when resolving their case.

Student’s choice for Initial Response Meeting (IRM) format:

- 100% Academic Integrity IRMs were virtual
- 99% Personal Misconduct IRMs were virtual
- 1% Only 1% of all cases were in person

**Actual Count Breakdown of Meetings**

**Academic Integrity Cases**
- 124 Virtual
- 3 In Person

**Personal Misconduct Cases**
- 260 Virtual
- 5 In Person

**All Cases**
- 384 Virtual
- 7 In Person
FACILITATING EDUCATION

The OSCCS facilitates education through intentional sanction design, facilitation, and management. Sanctions are designed to achieve the following learning outcomes:

**Identifying Impact**
Student can recognize the impact of their actions to self, others directly related to the incident, as well as the MIT Community.

**Evaluating Self**
Student can evaluate changes in their own behavior and understand how to generalize positive behavior change across multiple and diverse contexts.

**Applying Knowledge**
Student can use knowledge or insight gained through completion of the essay or project to develop detailed alternatives to past behavior.

**Recognizing Discrepancies**
Students can identify potential discrepancies between their previous actions and Institute policies.

The OSCCS also engages in community outreach and education. During the 2022-2023 academic year, OSCCS conducted 25 presentations to students, faculty, and campus partners.
The OSCCS offers several types of educational sanctions:

- Mentoring Program
- Academic Integrity Workshop
- Personal Development Plan
- Substance Use Education
- Building Healthy Connections Workshop
- Values Based Decision Making Workshop
- Conflict Management Project
- Reflective Essay Assignments

Most Common Educational Sanctions By Type

- Substance Use Education: 33%
- Decision-Making Workshop: 27%
- Reflection Essays: 9%
- Academic Integrity Workshop & Seminar: 9%
- Other Educational Sanctions & Referrals: 22%
FACILITATING EDUCATION

The OSCCS continually assesses our policies, processes, and programming by gathering student feedback to best meet the needs of students at the Institute and understand student learning.

Decision Making Workshop

96% of student participants Agree/Strongly Agree:
"The Decision Making Workshop (DMW) helped me understand how my personal values."

96% of student participants Agree/Strongly Agree:
"The DMW helped me understand how my values play a role in my decision making."

97% of student participants Agree/Strongly Agree:
"The DMW helped me build my confidence in my ability to exercise my own values when making future decisions."
Academic Integrity Workshop

95% of student participants Agree/Strongly Agree:
"this workshop helped me understand why Academic Integrity is important to my success at MIT."

100% of student participants Agree/Strongly Agree:
"this workshop helped me think about the future and how ethics and integrity have a role in it."

95% of student participants Agree/Strongly Agree:
"this workshop helped me learn how my personal values and academic integrity relate to each other."
Academic integrity is defined as the practice of contributing to scholarship honestly.

This means trusting your own intellect, showcasing your abilities, giving credit to others for their ideas, and normalizing making mistakes. Mistakes are encouraged and are an essential part of your learning and development.

Why is Academic Integrity Important?

Working with honesty and integrity is an expectation within the MIT community - failing to do so deprives you of the full MIT educational experience.

Academic integrity aligns with MIT’s Core Values: Excellence and Curiosity, Openness and Respect, and Belonging and Community.
CONTACT US

Email
osccs@mit.edu

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https://studentlife.mit.edu/osc

Phone
(617) 258-8423