

## Committee on Discipline

*Tamar Schapiro, chair*

*Tessa McLain, executive officer*

*James Reed, staff*

### Reported Cases

There were 541 total complaints brought to the Committee on Discipline's attention in academic year 2023-2024. The Committee on Discipline (COD), chaired by Professor Tamar Schapiro, resolved complaints by adjudicating cases of alleged misconduct.

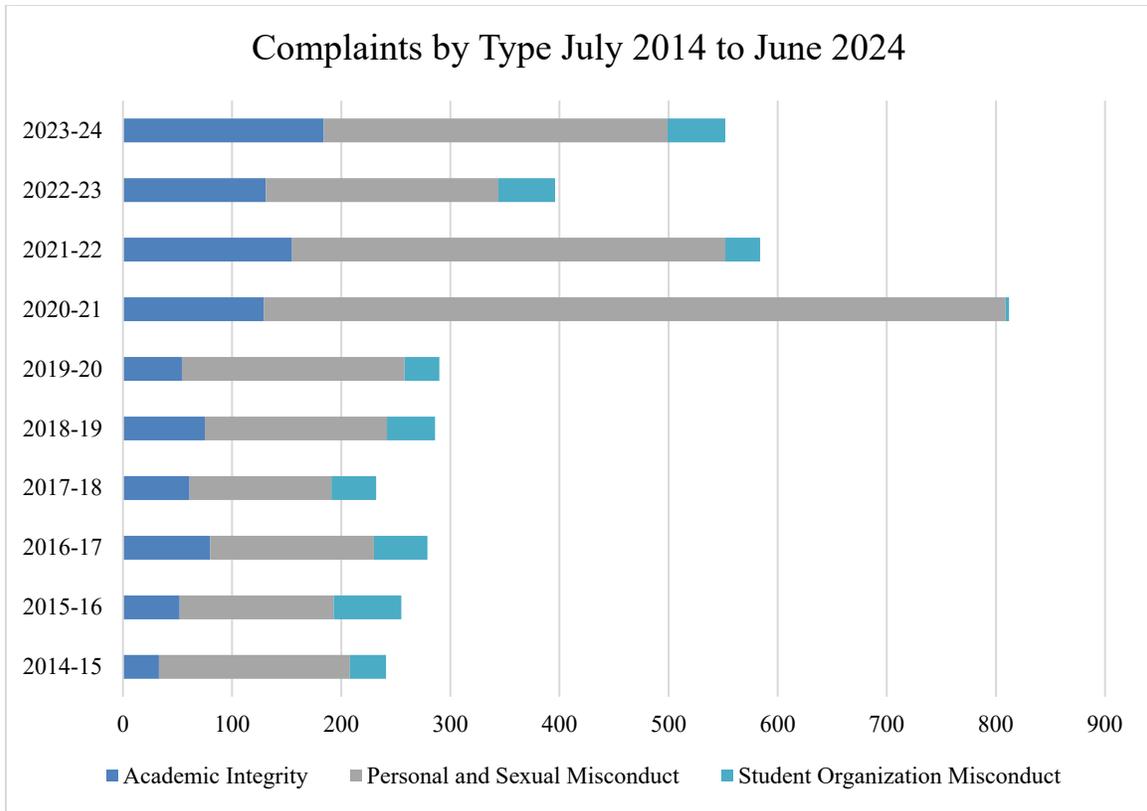
### Overview of COD Process

An individual can submit a report or complaint of potential student/student organization misconduct to the Committee on Discipline (COD) via the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (OSCCS) or 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.

### Case Type

Of the 541 complaints reported to COD, 491 (91%) were complaints alleging individual student misconduct and 50 (9%) were complaints alleging student organization misconduct. The total reported number of cases increased by 36% from the prior year. Reports of academic misconduct increased by 40%. Student organizational misconduct reports remained consistent (4% decrease).



The above stacked bar chart, entitled “Complaints by Type July 2014 to June 2024,” 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: 241 cases in 2014-2015, 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, and 541 cases in 2023-2024 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 2023-2024 and the four previous academic years:

Resolution Type	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
<i>COD Action</i>					

COD administrative resolution	152	41	108	135	180
COD hearing	2	0	1	1	4
COD sanctioning panel	2	3	2	2	0
COD sexual misconduct panel	2	3	0	1	0
Faculty letters to file	46	109	129	102	157
Delegated to student-run judicial mechanism	22	1	32	24	23
<i>Non-adjudicative resolution methods</i>					
Help-seeking amnesty	4	0	1	21	13
Referred to IDHR	-	-	-	-	8
Referred to Residential Life	-	-	-	-	3
Restorative practices/mediation, educational referral to other office	36	28	21	67	18
Housing security warning letter	-	-	-	-	58
Combined with other case (duplicate reported information/case consolidation)	-	-	-	-	18
<i>Unable to proceed</i>					
Complainant withdrew case or dismissal	13	16	18	33	-
Complaint withdrawn	-	-	-	-	15
Case dismissal*	-	-	-	-	20
Unknown respondent					18
<i>Methods no longer in use</i>					
Covid-19 expedited process	-	517	246	-	-
Covid-19 amnesty application	-	12	0	-	-
Covid-19 case dismissal	-	77	16	-	-
Cases pending (as of June 30)	11	5	10	10	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>541</b>

\* 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.

### 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 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 sanctions (e.g., substance use education, mentoring programs, projects, reflections, workshops, etc.), the COD tries to pair accountability with education. 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 2023-2024 and the four previous academic years:

<b>Sanction Type</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
<i>Status Sanctions</i>					
Degree revocation	0	0	0	1	0
Expulsion	1	0	0	1	0
Suspension	2	3	3	1	1
Probation	46	17	13	25	61
Formal discipline warning	117	17	64	103	68
Informal warning	-	-	-	43	99
Faculty letter to file (academic)	48	109	136	105	157
<i>Additional Sanctions</i>					
Removal from Institute housing	1	2	0	1	0
Housing relocation	2	1	2	1	0
No contact order, directive to stay away from certain buildings	7	5	2	5	23
Restitution	2	1	2	5	0
<i>Educational Sanctions</i>					
Substance use education/assessment	88	25	20	67	98

Decision-making workshop	51	90	18	23	14
Building healthy relationships through empathy workshop	-	-	5	2	3
Academic integrity seminar/workshop	2	4	9	17	18
Mentoring and personal development plan program	-	-	5	3	5
Other educational sanctions & referrals	136	126	62	148	84
<i>Sanctions no longer in use</i>					
<i>Covid-19 probation</i>	-	146	14	-	-
<i>Covid-19 FYI warning</i>	-	127	161	-	-
<i>Covid-19 warning</i>	-	217	69	-	-

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

### Types of Allegations

The COD received reports of information about a variety of alleged behaviors. The tables below summarize alleged policy violations from 2023-2024 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 the *Guidelines for Free Expression at Campus Events, Vigils, Protests, and Demonstrations* in November 2023 term, and COD received reports of behaviors violating this policy as shown below.

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

<b>Alleged Policy Violations</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
Academic misconduct	54	129	160	135	184
Alcohol	98	43	49	62	67
Other drugs	11	0	13	7	3
Assault, reckless endangerment	-	-	2	6	8
Threats/intimidation	-	-	3	6	12
Assault, reckless endangerment, threats/intimidation	19	5	-	-	-
Property damage	25	0	15	5	17
Disorderly conduct	7	30	5	21	52
Theft	2	0	21	8	2
Unauthorized access/improper use MIT property	42	37	17	11	12
Fire safety, arson	4	1	1	3	3

Weapons	0	1	0	2	3
Residential and housing policies	25	15	86	73	76
Institute expectations of behavior/integrity (directives, no contact orders, guidelines)	28	6	19	6	11
Institute expectations: <i>Guidelines for Free Expression at Campus Events, Vigils, Protests, and Demonstrations</i>	-	-	-	-	52
Harassment*	5	5	6	14	25
Sexual harassment, sexual exploitation*	4	4	2	2	2
Stalking*	1	2	2	5	1
Nonconsensual sexual contact or penetration*	5	6	4	3	0
Intimate partner violence*	4	0	0	0	0
Other	16	4	15	7	0
<i>Covid-19 policies</i>	-	929	326	-	-
<b>Total Alleged Policy Violations</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>527</b>

\*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>

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

<b>Alleged Policy Violations</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>
<i>Covid-19 policies</i>	-	4	20	-	-
Alcohol	36	0	10	27	17
Other drugs	0	0	0	0	1
Exceeding occupancy	9	0	1	5	0
Fire safety	0	0	2	0	0
Hazing	0	0	1	1	2
Harassment	1	0	0	0	6
Disorderly conduct	2	0	1	1	15
Noise complaints	8	1	4	10	14
Recruitment violations	3	1	2	0	0
Social event policy violations	21	1	11	93	61

Institute expectations: <i>Guidelines for Free Expression at Campus Events, Vigils, Protests, and Demonstrations</i>	-	-	-	-	4
Other	1	0	4	12	5
<b>Total Alleged Policy Violations</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>122</b>