

# Provost's Annual Report on Cases of Academic Discipline 2021-22

## Background

Academic integrity lies at the heart of the University's academic mission. U of T's academic integrity strategy is led institutionally by the tri-campus Provostial Advisory Group on Academic Integrity. Responsibility for academic integrity is shared with the divisions. Dean's Offices, dedicated academic integrity offices within the larger academic divisions, as well as faculty, instructors, librarians, writing centre instructors, and academic advisors all work together to support students to meet our expectations around academic integrity. The Centre for Teaching Support and Innovation also plays a significant role in supporting instructors to design assignments and syllabus structures that facilitate our students' ability to showcase their knowledge and skills while meeting our expectations about academic integrity.

The University's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* establishes two sets of procedures for addressing offences: one process for cases that are able to be managed entirely within the divisions, and one for those that proceed to the University Tribunal. Cases proceed to the Tribunal based on the seriousness of the type of offence, the relative weight of an assessment in which an offence has been alleged to be committed with respect to the course grade, or the fact that a student has not admitted to the behaviour being charged. The Provost's Annual Report on Cases of Academic Discipline contains two Appendices that reflect these two processes:

- Appendix A outlines statistics and trends pertaining to cases that were overseen completely by the divisions.
- Appendix B provides statistics and timeliness of cases that were escalated to and addressed by the University Tribunal.

The report on these statistics enables all members of our community to assess statistical trends pertaining to academic misconduct across the University.

## 2021-22 Synopsis:

This year's report paints an improved overall picture of the academic misconduct and integrity statistics at the University when compared with the past two years' reports. As hoped for, with the broad return to in-person assessments at the end of 2021-22, the number of offences is trending down at the University. In particular, the number of offences in three of the four largest divisions (Faculty of Arts & Science, Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering, UTM) is down very significantly compared to last year.

Despite a significant 15.7% decrease in the number of total offences last year, we have not yet reached pre-pandemic levels. However, it continues to be important to note that the vast majority of U of T students continue to uphold our academic integrity standards and did not commit any offenses under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* last year. Offenders represent 3.2% of our total student population.

The top two types of offences where a sanction was imposed and the case was closed at the divisional level remain plagiarism (30%) and use of an unauthorized aid (66%).

The number of cases forwarded to the University Tribunal continues to increase as our academic integrity community works through some of the backlog of cases received during the unprecedented past two years. Increased efforts are being made by Discipline Counsel to settle cases through Minutes of Settlements, which helps reduce the need for Tribunal hearings and increases timeliness of sanctions/decisions.

When the number of offences and the number of new cases forwarded to the University Tribunal increased due to the pandemic, the Appeals, Discipline & Faculty Grievances Office (ADFG) quickly launched a series of new initiatives to help address the time it took for cases to be heard and resolved at the Tribunal. Through this report, we are happy to confirm that these initiatives remain in place, and continue to be helpful in improving overall timeliness. As a reminder, those initiatives are:

- The default method of proceeding remains electronic: hearings, including contested ones, continue to be conducted electronically.
- The additional ADFG Office hearing secretary remains in place as well as the increased number of hearing dates available for scheduling (currently 10 per month).
- The ADFG office has maintained the increased tribunal membership (e.g. a higher number of members from each constituency: e.g. chairs, faculty and students.)

The newly created Office of University Counsel, working with Discipline Counsel, has also added more legal resources to support timelier resolutions of cases at or before reaching the University's Tribunal. In addition, the Office of the Vice-President and Provost has increased the frequency of its professional development workshop for faculty and staff engaged in academic integrity processes. The workshop is now held annually, with approximately 50 individuals typically attending. The workshop offers best practices on meeting with students whose actions are being considered as an offence under the Code, as well as presentations on the Code and roles of Discipline Counsel and Dean's Designate, for example.

The Provost's Office works closely with divisions to track and address systemic academic integrity issues across U of T. In May 2022, the University and three of its professors launched a lawsuit against a tutoring company, alleging copyright infringement from the company's unapproved use and sale of faculty members' teaching materials. The suit also cites the serious consequences faced by students who have been sanctioned for receiving unauthorized academic assistance from the company. The legal proceedings in that case are ongoing.

# Provost's Annual Report on Cases of Academic Discipline

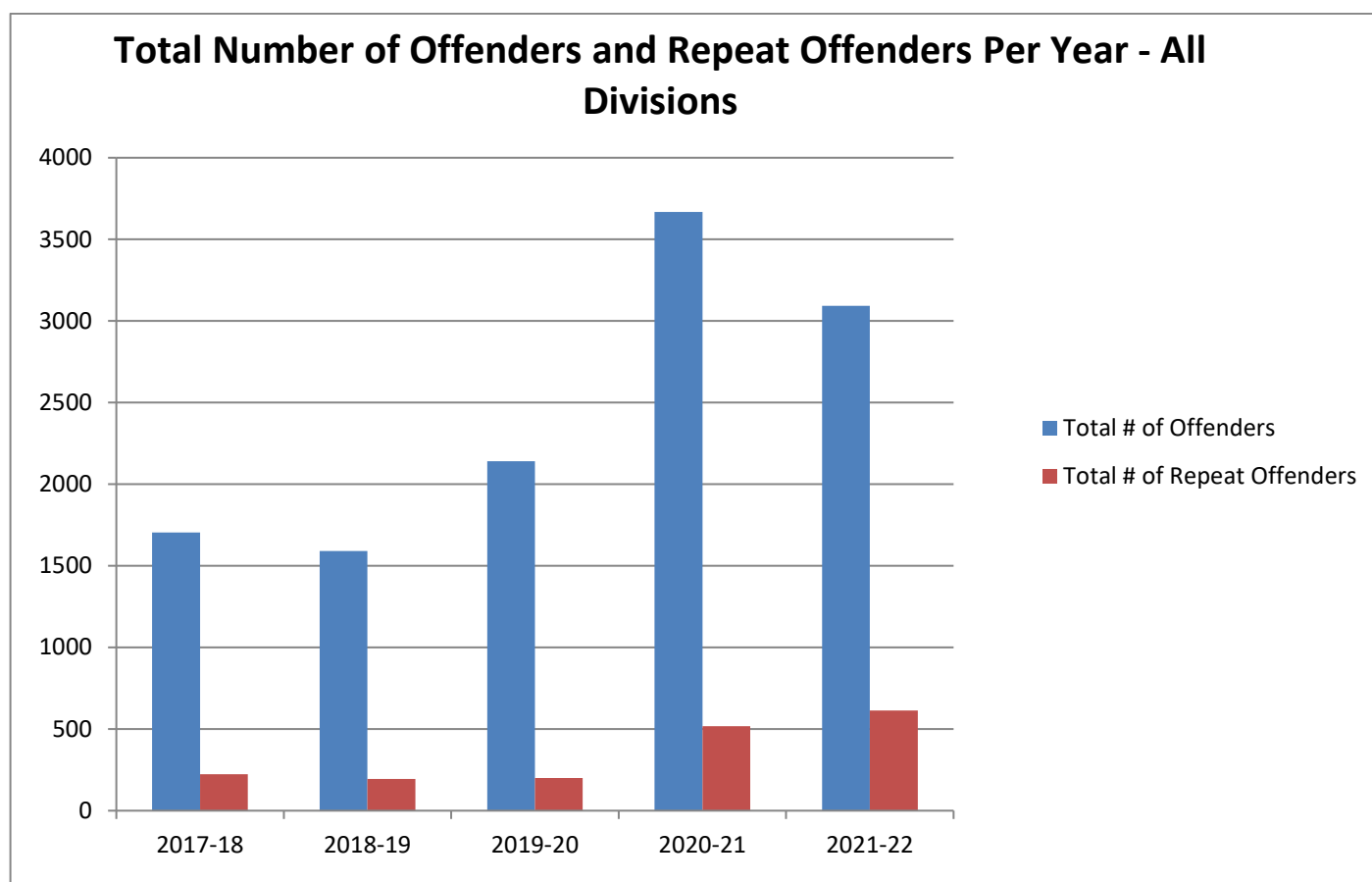
## Appendix A: Summary of Divisional Academic Discipline Cases 2021-2022

**Table 1: Total Number of Student Offenders by Division  
(only where a sanction is imposed and the case is closed by the division)**

Division	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22	
	Total # of Student Offenders by Division	% of Offenders based on Student Population	Total # of Student Offenders by Division	% of Offenders based on Student Population	Total # of Student Offenders by Division	% of Offenders based on Student Population	Total # of Student Offenders by Division	% of Offenders based on Student Population	Total # of Student Offenders by Division	% of Offenders based on Student Population
Applied Science & Engineering	57	1.1%	70	1.3%	226	4.2%	365	6.6%	207	3.7%
Architecture	29	2.8%	10	0.9%	11	1.1%	13	1.2%	20	1.9%
Arts & Science	535	1.9%	657	2.4%	751	2.7%	1396	4.9%	909	3.1%
Dentistry	2	0.5%	3	0.7%	5	1.1%	7	1.6%	6	1.4%
Graduate Studies	51	0.3%	34	0.2%	39	0.2%	46	0.2%	42	0.2%
Law	2	0.3%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0.1%
Medicine	0	0%	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Music	8	1.5%	19	3.5%	24	4.3%	3	0.5%	12	2.2%
Nursing	3	0.9%	3	0.9%	1	0.3%	0	0%	1	0.3%
OISE / UT	0	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N.A
Pharmacy	7	0.6%	4	0.4%	7	0.6%	96	8.2%	34	3%
Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education	7	0.7%	16	1.5%	7	0.7%	17	1.6%	4	0.4%
U of T Mississauga	511	3.6%	582	4.0%	460	3.0%	1339	8.7%	1173	7.4%
U of T Scarborough	493	3.6%	192	1.4%	608	4.4%	386	2.7%	683	4.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1705</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>1590</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>2140</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>3668</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>3092</b>	<b>3.2%</b>

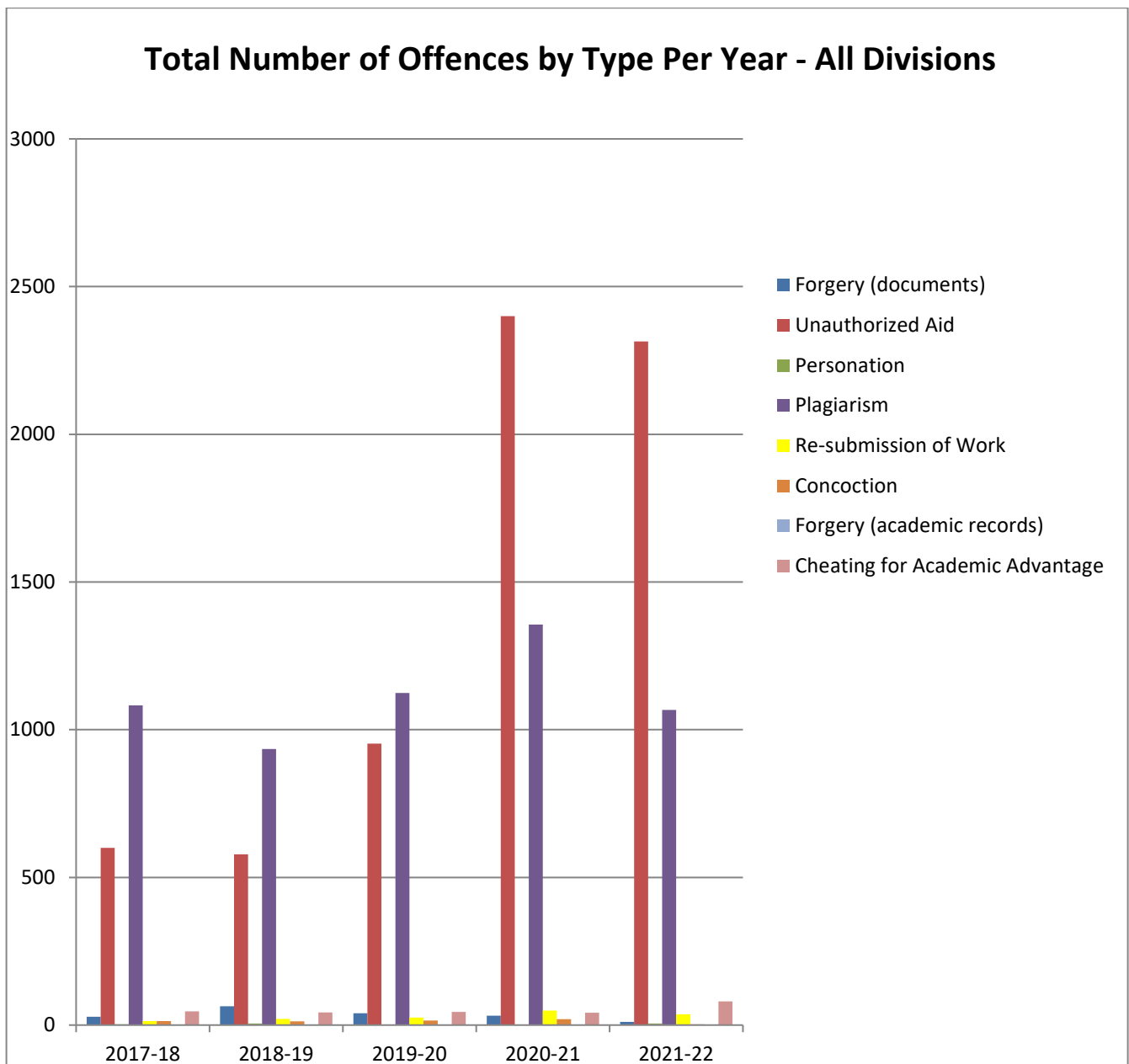
**Table 2: Total Number of Repeat Student Offenders by Division  
(only where sanction is imposed)**

Division	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Applied Science & Engineering	14	4	23	85	32
Architecture	2	3	4	2	1
Arts & Science	49	57	75	175	178
Dentistry	0	1	0	0	0
Graduate Studies	1	5	2	1	1
Law	0	0	0	0	0
Medicine	0	0	0	0	0
Music	0	0	1	0	1
Nursing	0	0	0	0	0
OISE / UT	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pharmacy	0	0	0	0	1
Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education	0	1	0	0	0
U of T Mississauga	79	94	60	200	228
U of T Scarborough	79	29	35	54	171
<b>Total</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>613</b>

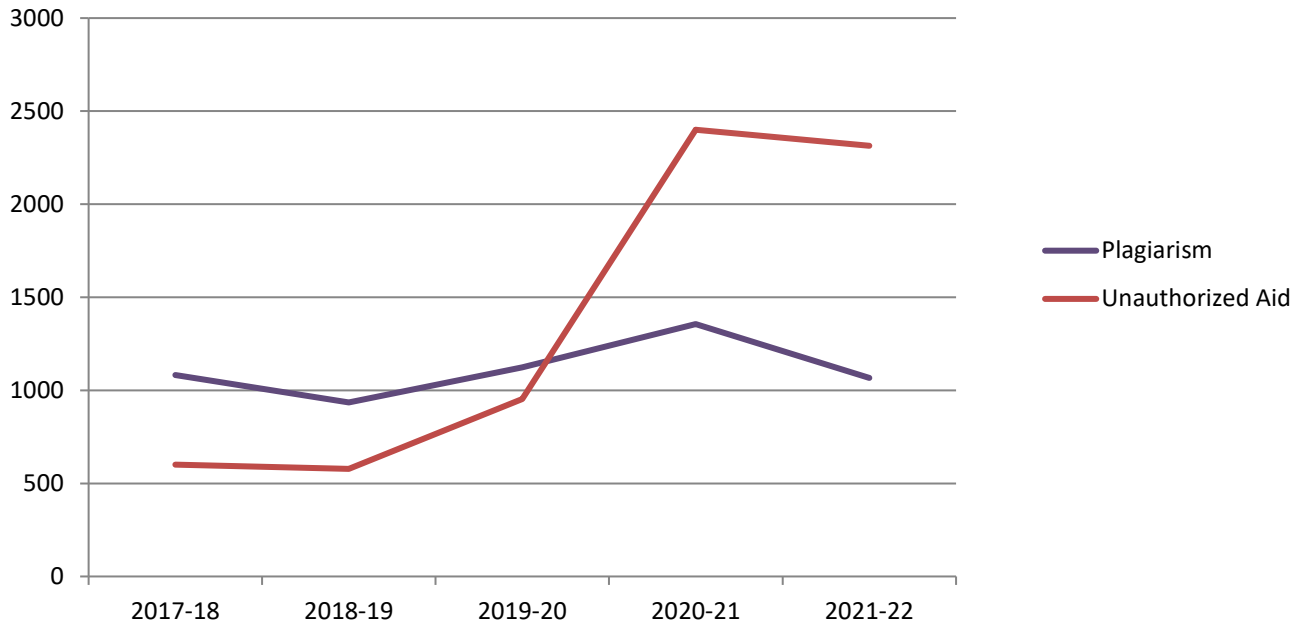


**Table 3: Total Number of Offences by Type – All Divisions**

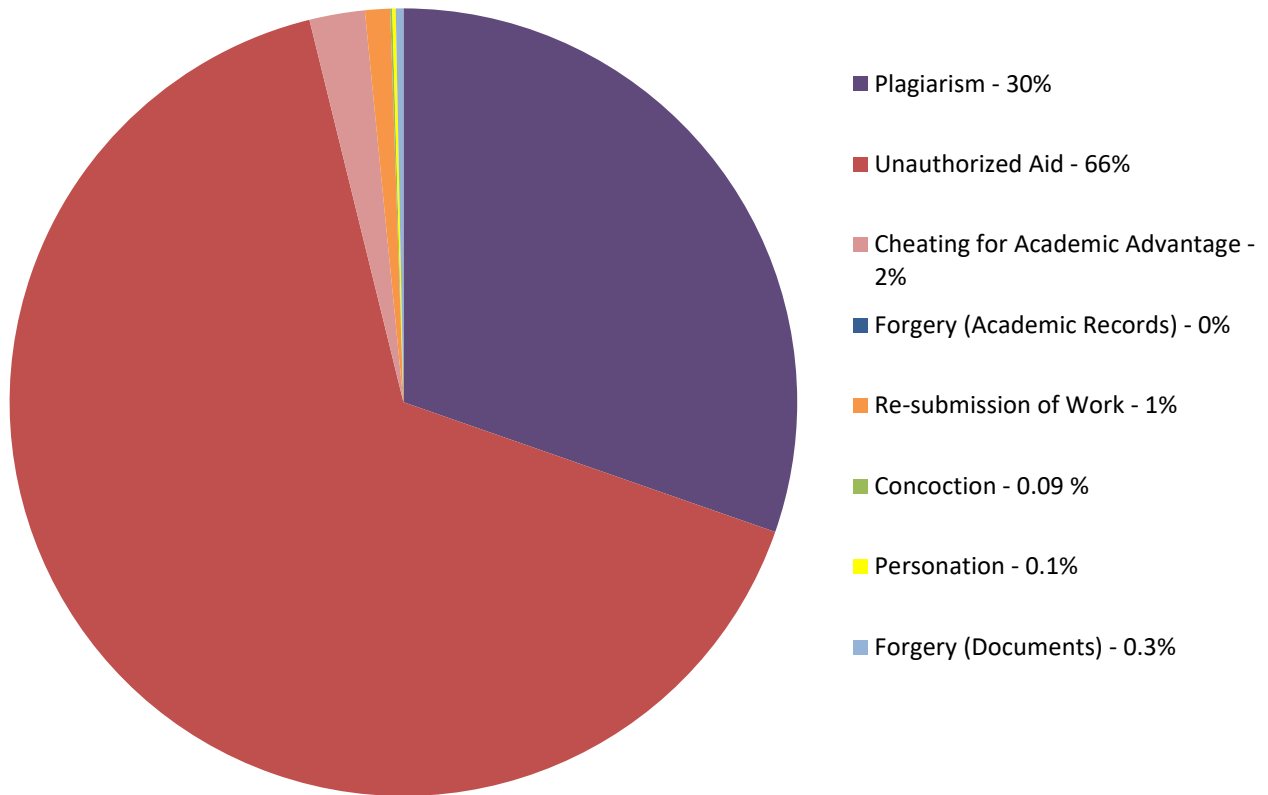
Charge Code	Charge Text	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
B.i.1(a)	Forgery (documents, not transcripts)	28	64	40	32	11
B.i.1(b)	Unauthorized aid	600	578	953	2400	2314
B.i.1(c)	Personation	3	5	0	2	5
B.i.1(d)	Plagiarism	1082	935	1124	1356	1067
B.i.1(e)	Re-submission of work	14	21	25	49	36
B.i.1(f)	Concoction	14	13	15	20	3
B.i.3(a)	Forgery (academic records)	0	0	1	0	0
B.i.3(b)	Cheating for academic advantage	46	43	45	42	80
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1787</b>	<b>1659</b>	<b>2203</b>	<b>3901</b>	<b>3516</b>



### Total Top Two Offences Per Year - All Divisions



### Total Number of Offences by Type for 2021-22 - All Divisions \*



**Table 4A: Timeliness between Date of Offence and Case Resolved**

Year July 1-June 30	Time between Date of Offence and Case Resolved				
	Within 6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	12-15 months	Total
2017-18	77.5%	8%	5.3%	9%	99.8%
2018-19	79.5%	8.7%	5.5%	6.3%	99.9%
2019-20	86.5%	7.5%	2.9%	1.3%	98.2%
2020-21	79.7%	10.5%	6.3%	2.5%	99%
2021-22	45.2%	18.7%	15.8%	8.6%	88.3%

**Table 4B: Timeliness between Date Academic Integrity Office Became Aware and Case Resolved**

Year July 1-June 30	Time between Date Academic Integrity Office Became Aware and Case Resolved				
	Within 6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	12-15 months	Total
2017-18	81%	6.3%	2.2%	10.2%	99.7%
2018-19	86.6%	5.2%	4.2%	3.9%	99.9%
2019-20	92.1%	4.7%	1.4%	0.4%	98.6%
2020-21	89.1%	4.8%	4.1%	1.3%	99.3%
2021-22	82.4 %	6.4%	4.2%	3.5%	96.5%

**Table 4C: Timeliness for 2021-2022- By Division**

Division	2021-22				
	Time between Date of Offence and Case Resolved				
	6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	12-15 months	Total
Applied Science & Engineering	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Architecture	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Arts & Science	18.4%	23.2%	27.7%	14%	83.3%
Dentistry	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Graduate Studies	98%	2%	0%	0%	100%
Law	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Medicine	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Music	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Nursing	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Pharmacy	24%	3%	0%	32%	59%
Kinesiology & Physical Education	75%	0%	25%	0%	100%
U of T Mississauga	62.1%	16.1%	7.8%	3.6%	89.6%
U of T Scarborough	47.8%	23.1%	12.8%	9.1%	92.8%
<b>Total</b>	45.2%	18.7%	15.8%	8.6%	88.3%

**Table 4D: Timeliness for 2021-2022 By Division**

	2021-22				
Division	Time between Date Academic Integrity Office Became Aware and Case Resolved				
	6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	12-15 months	Total
Applied Science & Engineering	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Architecture	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Arts & Science	91.2%	3.2%	2.2%	3.4%	100%
Dentistry	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Graduate Studies	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Law	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Medicine	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Music	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Nursing	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Pharmacy	24%	3%	0%	35%	62%
Kinesiology & Physical Education	75%	0%	25%	0%	100%
U of T Mississauga	74.7%	9.5%	5.6%	2.9%	92.7%
U of T Scarborough	72.7%	10.8%	7.6%	4.7%	95.8%
<b>Total</b>	82.4%	6.4%	4.2%	3.5%	96.5%

\*For Timeliness Tables 4 A, B, and D, some totals do not equal 100%, because of rounding or due to the fact some cases took longer than 15 months to resolve.



# Provost's Annual Report on Cases of Academic Discipline

## Appendix B: Summary of University Tribunal Cases 2021-22

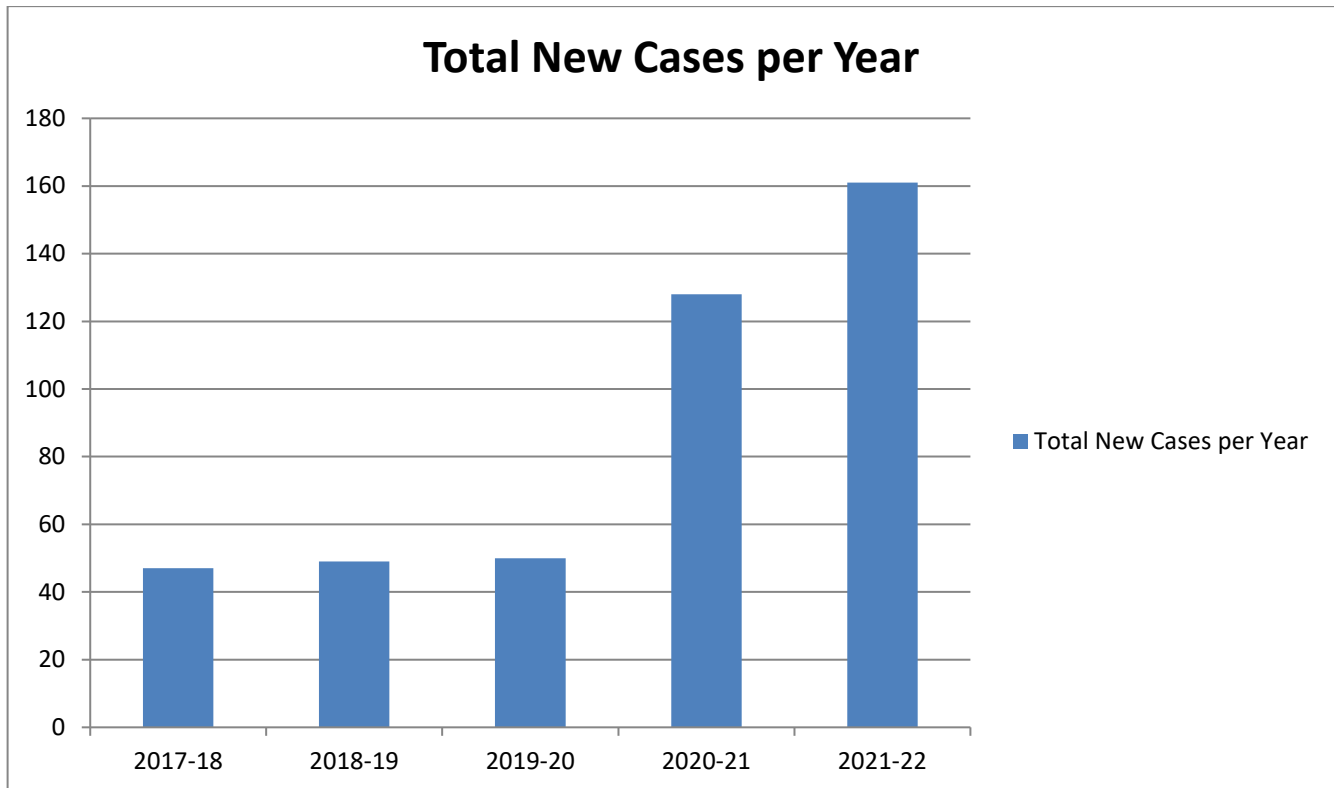
**Table 1: Overview of Open Cases**

<b>Year</b> July 1-June 30	<b>Cases Carried Forward</b> charges laid before July 1	<b>New Cases</b> charges laid	<b>Total Open Cases</b>	<b>Cases Resolved</b>	<b>Cases Carried Forward **</b> (as of July 1)
2017-18	60	47	107	56	51
2018-19	51	49	100	49	51
2019-20	51	50	101	35	66
2020-21	66	128	194	99	95
2021-22	95	161***	256	154*	102

\*These include cases that were returned to the decanal level/settled/withdrawn. There was also one resolved academic discipline case that was not processed through the *Code of Behaviour*.

\*\* Some of these cases that were active (carried forward) on July 1<sup>st</sup> have since been closed.

\*\*\* This number represents cases that went through the *Code of Behaviour*. In addition to these cases, there was one academic discipline case where charges were laid, but not processed under the *Code of Behaviour*.



**Table 2: Total Number of Cases by Final Outcome**

Outcome	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Acquittal	1	0	0	1	0
Degree Recall	2	1	0	0	0
Degree Suspension*	0	1	0	0	0
Expulsion from University	16	13	7	6	5
Suspension	17	13	11	21	35
Returned to Decanal Level / Minutes of Settlement/Charges Withdrawn	21**	21	17	71	114

**NOTE:** this column refers to those acquitted of all charges, not those acquitted of partial charges.

\* The Degree Suspension column was added to the chart in 2018-19, when we recorded the first such sanction.

\*\* There was one case inadvertently missed in the 2017-18 reporting year, which was Returned to the Decanal Level.

**Table 3: Total Number of Cases Appealed\***

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Total	4	1	0	1	4

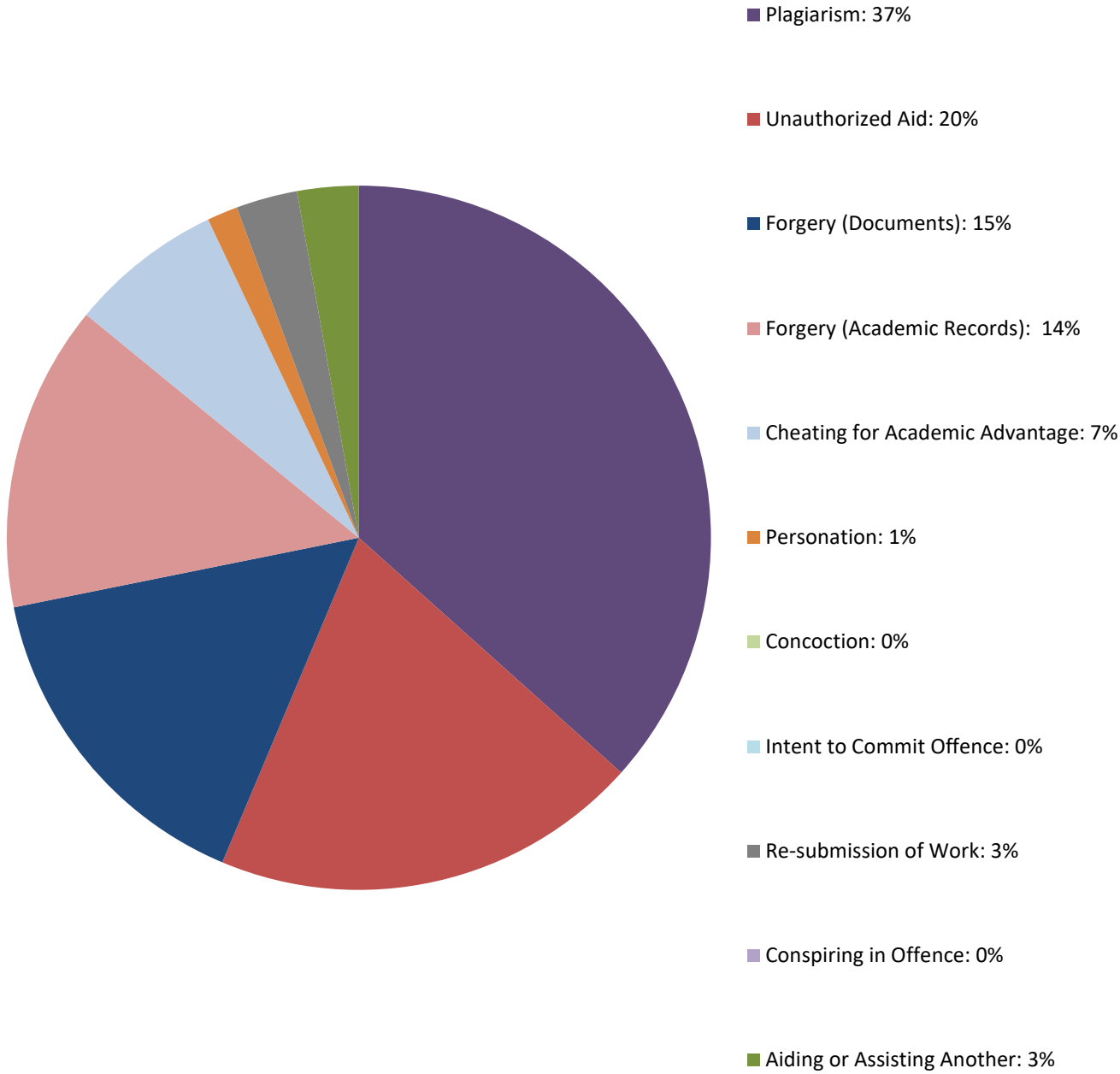
\* Appeal cases are reported in the year the decision is issued, and not in the year the appeal is filed.

**Table 4: Total Number of Offences by Type\***

Charge Code	Charge Text	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
B.i.1(a)	Forgery (documents, not transcripts)	8	1	4	10	11
B.i.1(b)	Unauthorized aid or receiving assistance	4	4	7	14	14
B.i.1(c)	Personation	0	0	0	2	1
B.i.1(d)	Plagiarism	23	17	16	19	26
B.i.1(e)	Re-submission of work	0	0	0	0	2
B.i.1(f)	Concoction	0	2	0	0	0
B.i.3(a)	Forgery (academic records)	19	23	9	8	10
B.i.3(b)	Cheating for academic advantage	2	0	0	1	5
B.ii.1(a).ii	Aiding or assisting another	0	0	0	0	2
B.ii.1(a).iv	Conspiring in offence	0	0	0	0	0
B.ii.2	Intent to commit offence	1	0	0	0	0

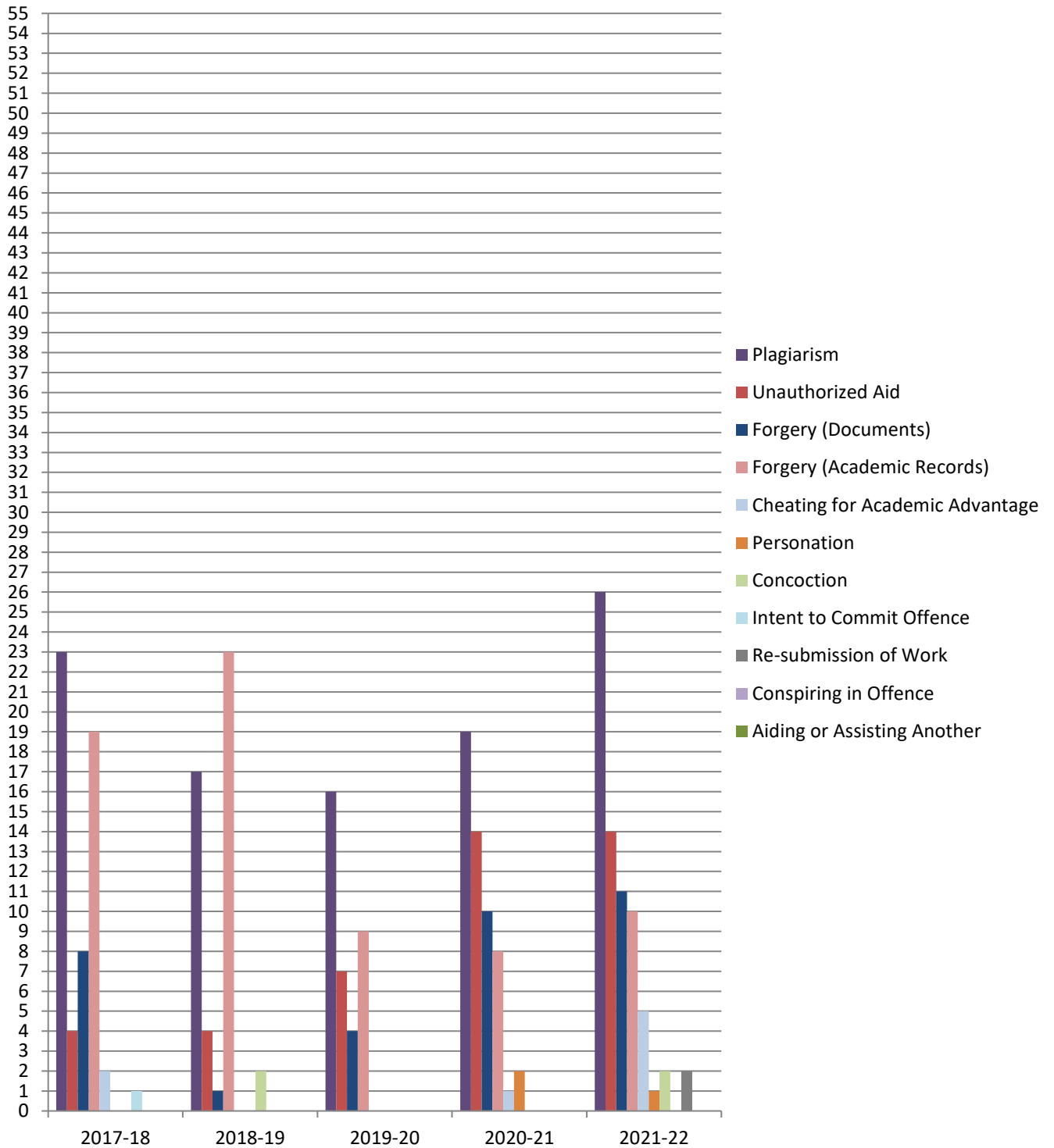
\* This chart captures all offences for which the Tribunal made an official finding of guilt. Offences that went back to the decanal level are counted by the Division, in order to avoid double counting.

# Total Percentage of Offences by Type for 2021-2022\*



\*The percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding.

## Total Number of Offences by Type per Year



**Table 5: Total Number of Offenders by Division\***

Division*	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Applied Science & Engineering	0	2	0	6	3
Architecture, Landscape, Design	0	1	1	1	3
Arts & Science	14	10	13	61	85
Dentistry	0	0	0	0	1
Graduate Studies	7	8	1	1	4
Law	0	0	1	0	0
Medicine	0	0	1	1	0
Music	0	0	0	0	0
Nursing	0	0	0	0	0
OISE / UT	0	0	0	0	0
Pharmacy	3	0	0	0	0
Kinesiology & Physical Education	0	0	0	0	0
U of T Mississauga	19	21	13	14	41
U of T Scarborough	13	7	5	15	17

\* This chart includes offenders whose cases went back to decanal level for resolution/settlement/withdrawal.

**Table 6a: Timeliness between Charges Laid and Order Issued**

Year July 1-June 30	Time between Charges Laid and Order Issued				
	Within 6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	12-15 months	Total*
2017-18	50%	30%	13%	3%	96%
2018-19	70%	11%	15%	4%	100%
2019-20	53%	33%	13%	0%	99%
2020-21	44%	22%	7%	7%	81%
2021-22	65%	15%	10%	2.5	92.5%

\* The total is calculated based on the total number of cases where an order was issued. For all cases in 2021-22 an order was issued.

**Table 6b: Timeliness between Charges Laid and Written Reasons**

Year July 1-June 30	Time between Charges Laid and Written Reasons				
	Within 6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	12-15 months	Total
2017-18	17%	26%	29%	11%	83%
2018-19	36%	43%	4%	14%	97%
2019-20	22%	39%	17%	11%	89%
2020-21	21%	18%	25%	7%	71%
2021-22	35%	22.5%	20%	10%	87.5%

**NOTE:** Tables 6a and 6b do not include offenders whose cases went back to decanal level for resolution or were settled, but it does include decisions that were appealed. Also, in 87.5% of cases that proceeded to a hearing, either an Order or written reasons were issued within 15 months. There were five cases where the process took longer than 15 months.