

Provost's Annual Report on Cases of Academic Discipline 2022-23

Background

The fundamental importance of academic integrity is emphasized to all students at the University of Toronto. Under the University's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*, there are two levels at which a case of student academic misconduct ('cheating') can be resolved: at the divisional level, and at the University Tribunal. Cases proceed to the Tribunal primarily based on the seriousness of the type of offence 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 provides statistics pertaining to cases that were managed and resolved by the divisions.
- Appendix B provides statistics regarding cases that were escalated to the University Tribunal.

2022-23 Synopsis

Divisional overview

This year's statistics reveal that academic offence numbers continue to decline from their pandemic highs. In most of the largest divisions, offence numbers peaked in 2020-21, when assessments were held almost entirely online. In 2021-22, as many assessments returned to in-person format, numbers of offences began to fall in most of the largest divisions. As the current report indicates, in 2022-23, offence numbers fell yet again in all but one of the largest divisions. While rates of academic misconduct have not returned to pre-pandemic levels, they continue to decrease with the return to invigilated, in-person conditions for most final assessments.

It should also be noted that in some of the divisions, particularly the professional faculties of Law, Medicine, and Nursing, there was no increase in offence levels during the pandemic, and their numbers remain extremely low.

Instructors, TA's, writing centres, academic success centres, academic advisors, international student centres, and orientation teams have all emphasized academic integrity education for new students over the past two years, in no small part to be responsive to the effects of the pandemic on their learning and, specifically, test- and exam-taking during their final years of high school.

The range of materials available to students on the topic of academic integrity continues to grow across the University, and is continuously assessed. For instance, the Provost's Office has developed a new series of slides that are displayed on all campuses, indicating the seriousness with which the University takes academic integrity. It has also co-developed, with the Innovation Hub, a student-created series of videos encouraging students to ask for academic help when they need it, rather than turning to misconduct.

University Tribunal overview

The number of new academic offences this past year largely declined from previous years. This is good news, though the large number of cases that were unable to be resolved divisionally over the past couple of years has resulted in a growing number of cases being reviewed by Discipline Counsel for a potential hearing at the University Tribunal. The Provost's Office, University Legal Counsel, and the Appeals, Discipline & Faculty Grievances Office (which administers Tribunal hearings) are actively monitoring timelines for cases to be heard by the Tribunal. They are also examining additional solutions to increase the speed with which cases are resolved, beyond those practices that were implemented when the pandemic began. These practices include the increased use of memoranda of settlement that eliminate the need for a hearing, a greater number of hearing dates offered to parties to a hearing, and a larger pool of Tribunal members.

Related initiatives

The University's strategy on academic integrity has now been posted on the institutional academic integrity website (<academicintegrity.utoronto.ca>), which has thousands of visits every month. The strategy is guided by the values articulated in the *Code of Behaviour*, and remains high-level and principles-based, given the complex scale and structure of the University.

More specific strategies to address evolving forms of academic misconduct are regularly developed by instructors, TA's and invigilators; members of the Provostial Advisory Group on Academic Integrity; the Provost's Office; teaching centres; and registrars. For instance, in 2022-23, the University's response to the launch of ChatGPT and other generative artificial intelligence tools had a strong focus on academic integrity. In particular, teaching centres supported instructors in examining assessment design to ensure that students were demonstrating that they had attained learning outcomes, without the need or temptation to turn to generative AI. Student-focused material on the use of ChatGPT was added to the institutional academic integrity website, and a prominent slide is now featured on all campus slides reminding students to check with their instructors whether generative AI is permitted in their individual courses.

The University also continues to pursue its copyright lawsuit against tutoring company Easy Edu. The lawsuit 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 in Federal Court.

Provost's Annual Report on Cases of Academic Discipline

Appendix A: Summary of Divisional Academic Discipline Cases 2022-2023

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

Division	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23	
	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	70	1.3%	226	4.2%	365	6.6%	207	3.7%	122	2.1%
Architecture	10	0.9%	11	1.1%	13	1.2%	20	1.9%	5	0.5%
Arts & Science	657	2.4%	751	2.7%	1396	4.9%	909	3.1%	1494	4.9%
Dentistry	3	0.7%	5	1.1%	7	1.6%	6	1.4%	2	0.5%
Graduate Studies	34	0.2%	39	0.2%	46	0.2%	42	0.2%	33	0.2%
Law	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0.1%	1	0.1%
Medicine	0	0%	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Music	19	3.5%	24	4.3%	3	0.5%	12	2.2%	3	0.5%
Nursing	3	0.9%	1	0.3%	0	0%	1	0.3%	2	0.5%
Pharmacy	4	0.4%	7	0.6%	96	8.2%	34	3%	7	0.6%
Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education	16	1.5%	7	0.7%	17	1.6%	4	0.4%	5	0.5%
U of T Mississauga	582	4.0%	460	3.0%	1339	8.7%	1173	7.4%	833	5.6%
U of T Scarborough	192	1.4%	608	4.4%	386	2.7%	683	4.8%	297	2.1%
Total	1590	1.8%	2140	2.3%	3668	3.9%	3092	3.2%	2804	2.9%

*The calculation this year was conducted in a way that ensured no student who committed multiple offences was double-counted

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

Division	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Applied Science & Engineering	4	23	85	32	19
Architecture	3	4	2	1	0
Arts & Science	57	75	175	178	380
Dentistry	1	0	0	0	0
Graduate Studies	5	2	1	1	3
Law	0	0	0	0	0
Medicine	0	0	0	0	0
Music	0	1	0	1	0
Nursing	0	0	0	0	1
Pharmacy	0	0	0	1	0
Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education	1	0	0	0	0
U of T Mississauga	94	60	200	228	221
U of T Scarborough	29	35	54	171	70
Total	194	200	517	613	694

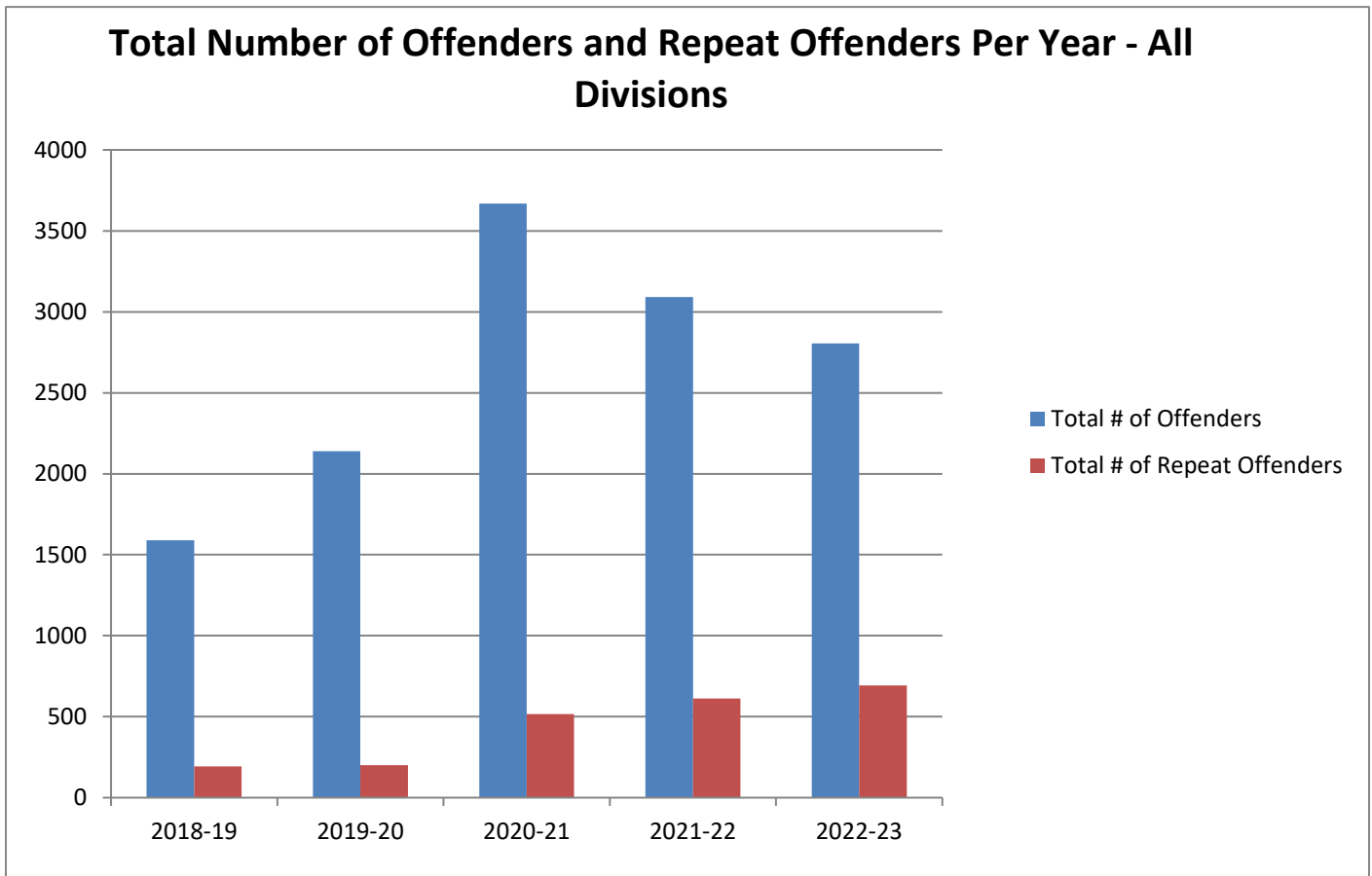
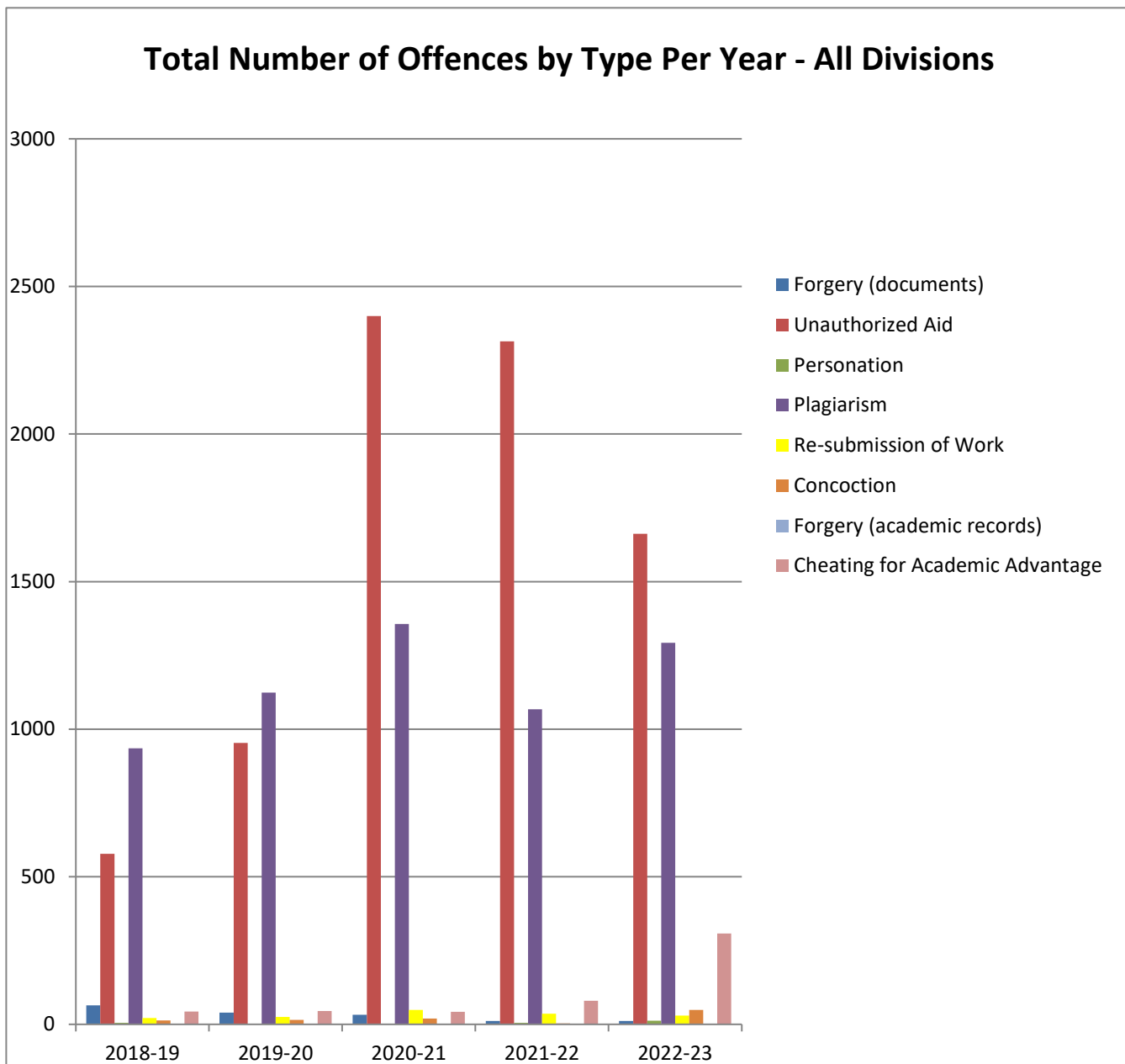
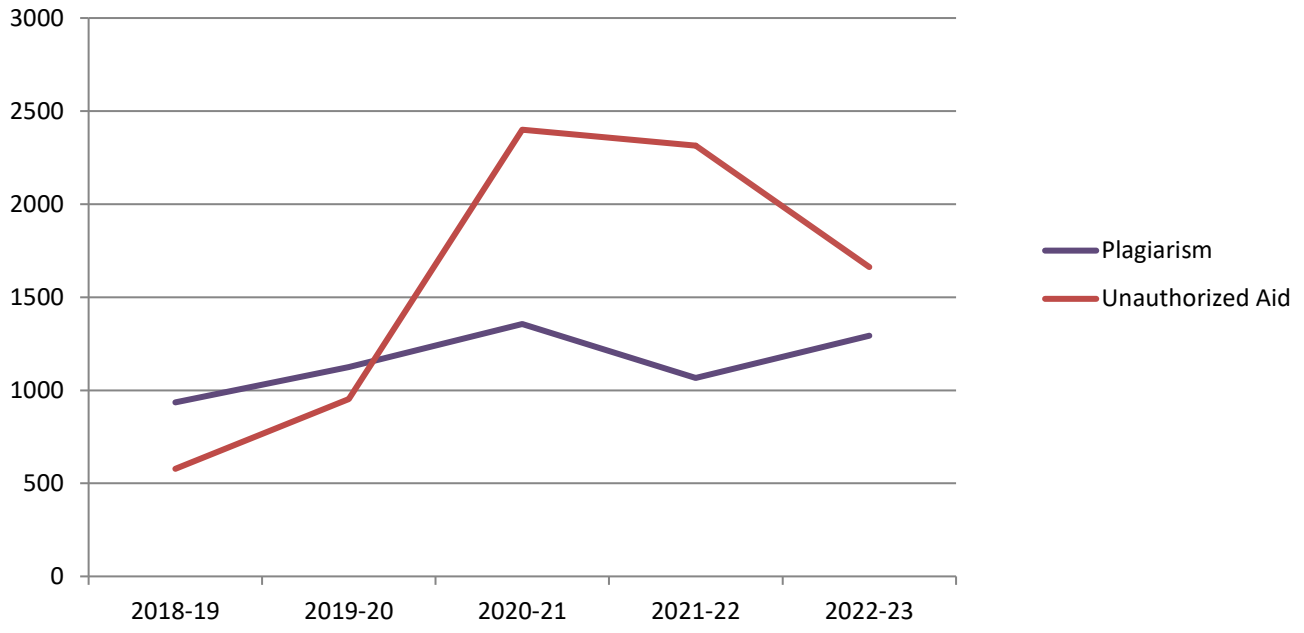


Table 3: Total Number of Offences by Type – All Divisions

Charge Code	Charge Text	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
B.i.1(a)	Forgery (documents, not transcripts)	64	40	32	11	11
B.i.1(b)	Unauthorized aid	578	953	2400	2314	1662
B.i.1(c)	Personation	5	0	2	5	12
B.i.1(d)	Plagiarism	935	1124	1356	1067	1293
B.i.1(e)	Re-submission of work	21	25	49	36	30
B.i.1(f)	Concoction	13	15	20	3	49
B.i.3(a)	Forgery (academic records)	0	1	0	0	0
B.i.3(b)	Cheating for academic advantage	43	45	42	80	308
	Total	1659	2203	3901	3516	3365



Total Top Two Offences Per Year - All Divisions



Total Number of Offences by Type for 2022-23 - All Divisions *

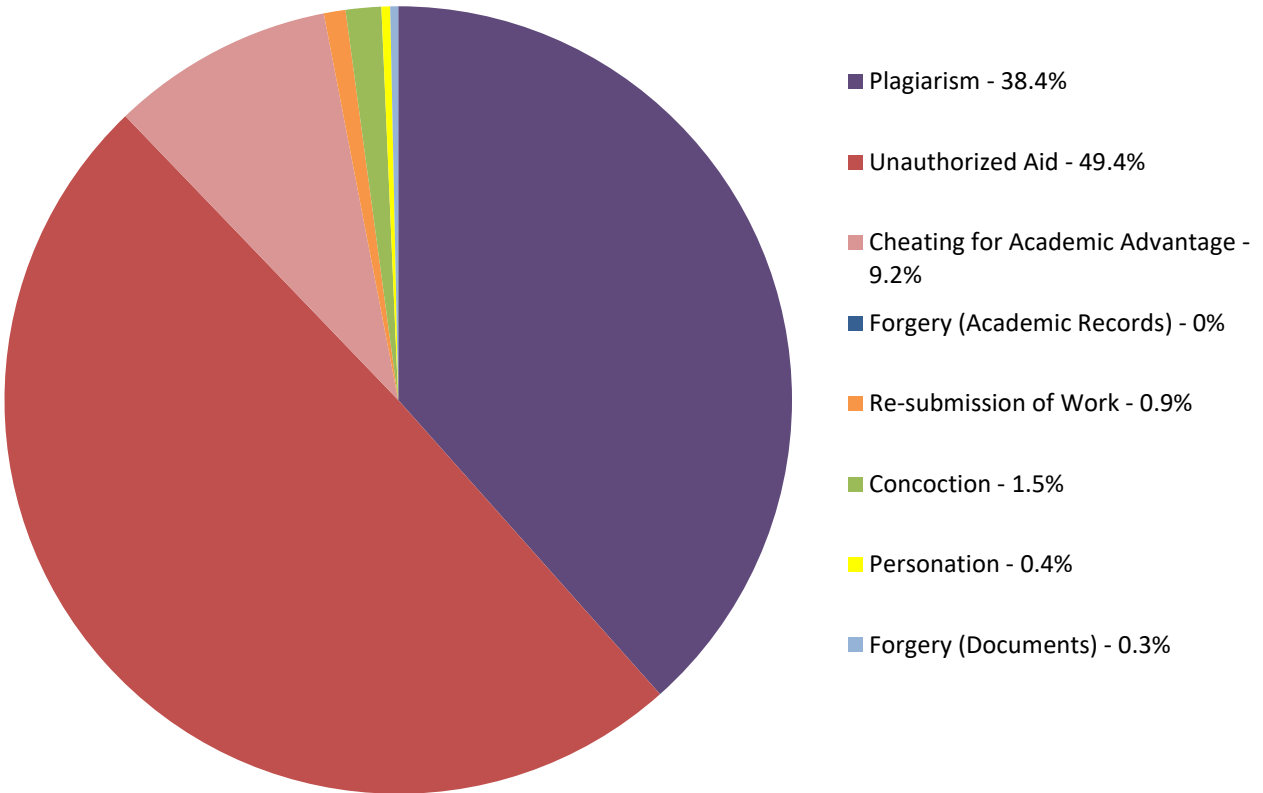


Table 4A: Timeliness between Date of Offence and Case Resolved

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
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%
2022-23	67.5%	11.1%	7.5%	4.6%	90.7%

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
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%
2022-23	76.1%	10.1%	5.7%	3.7%	95.5%

Table 4C: Timeliness for 2022-2023- By Division

Division	2022-23				
	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	77.9%	8.2%	2.1%	3.5%	91.9%
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	85.7%	0%	0%	0%	85.7%
Kinesiology & Physical Education	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
U of T Mississauga	46.1%	16%	17.9%	7.6%	87.6%
U of T Scarborough	52.3%	20.2%	11.2%	4%	87.8%
Total	67.5%	11.1%	7.5%	4.6%	90.7%

Table 4D: Timeliness for 2022-2023 By Division

	2022-23				
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	86.3%	6.2%	3.7%	2.6%	99%
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	85.7%	0%	0%	0%	85.7%
Kinesiology & Physical Education	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%
U of T Mississauga	58%	17.7%	9.8%	6.1%	91.7%
U of T Scarborough	72.6%	9.7%	4.7%	2.8%	89.7%
Total	76.1%	10.1%	5.7%	3.7%	95.5%

*For Timeliness Tables 4 A, B, D, and the pie chart, 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 2022-23

Table 1: Overview of Open Cases

Year July 1-June 30	Cases Carried Forward charges laid before July 1	New Cases* charges laid	Total Open Cases	Cases Resolved**	Cases Carried Forward *** (as of July 1, 2023)
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
2022-23	102	136	238	113	125

* This number represents academic discipline cases that were proceeded through the *Code of Behaviour*.

**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 1st have since been closed.

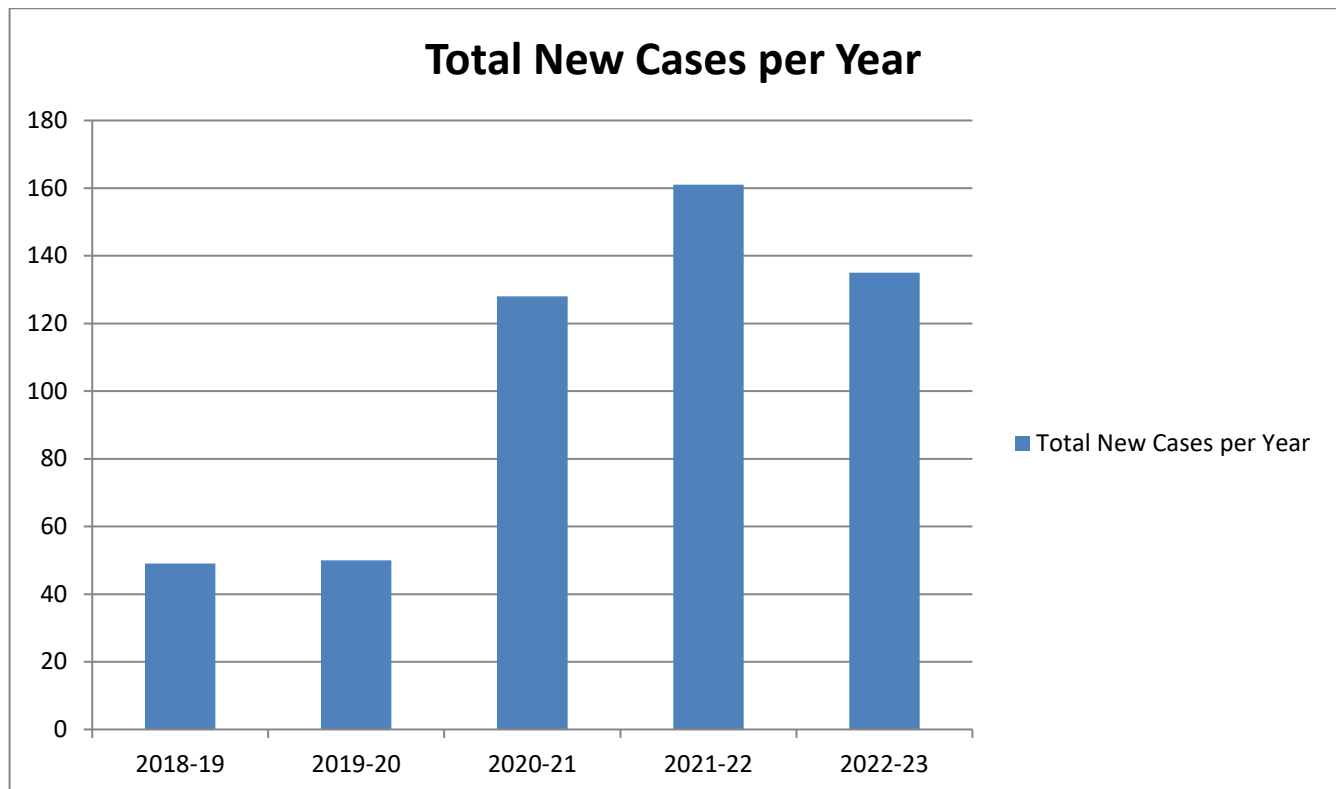


Table 2: Total Number of Cases by Final Outcome

Outcome	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Acquittal *	0	0	1	0	0
Degree Recall	1	0	0	0	0
Degree Suspension	1	0	0	0	0
Expulsion from University	13	7	6	5	5
Suspension	13	11	21	35	33
Returned to Decanal Level / Minutes of Settlement/Charges Withdrawn	21	17	71	114	75

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

Table 3: Total Number of Cases Appealed*

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Total	1	0	1	4	1

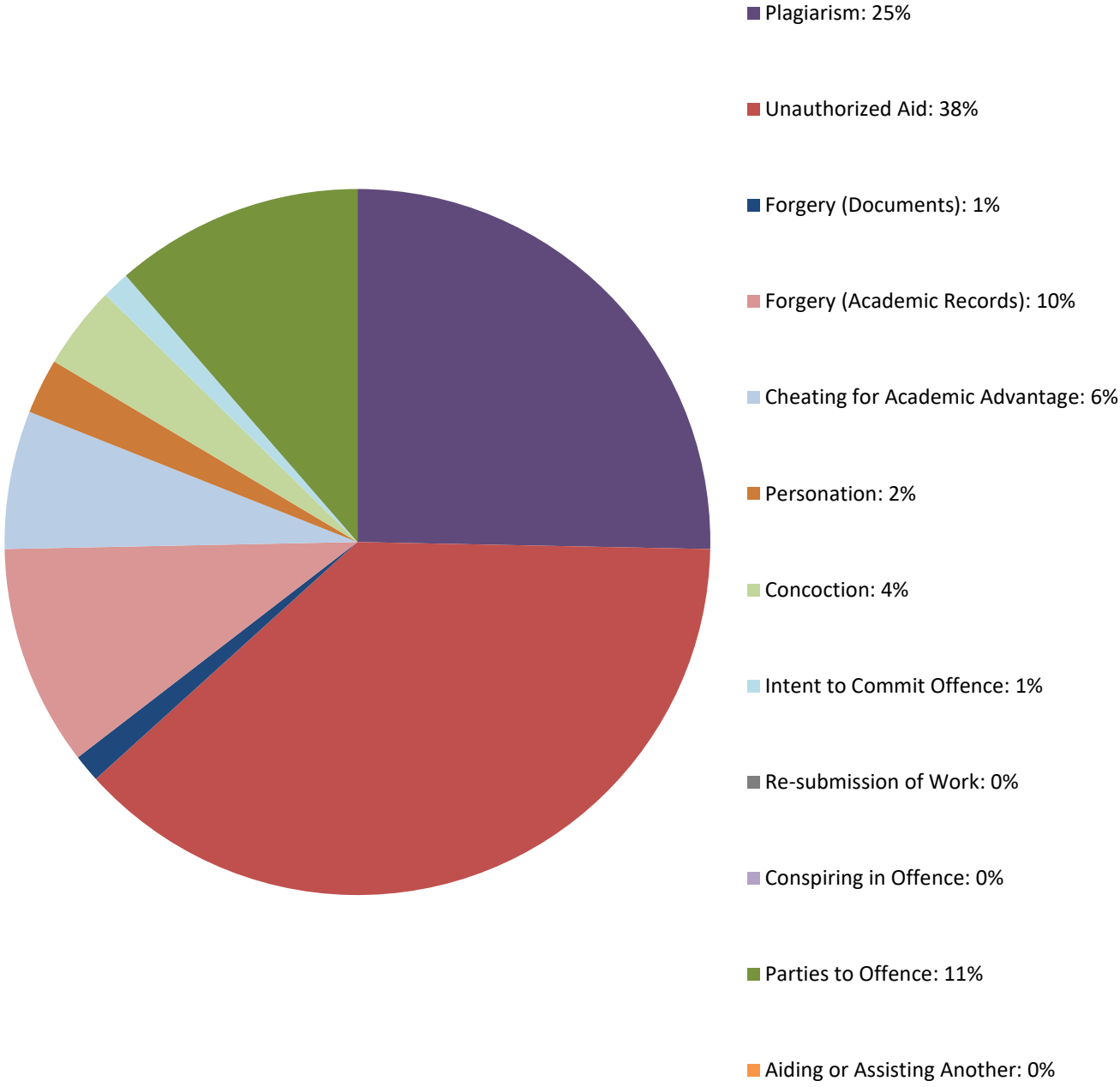
* Appeal cases are reported in the year the decision is issued, and not in the year the appeal is filed.

Table 4: Total Number of Offences by Type*

Charge Code	Charge Text	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
B.i.1(a)	Forgery (documents, not transcripts)	1	4	10	11	1
B.i.1(b)	Unauthorized aid or receiving assistance	4	7	14	14	30
B.i.1(c)	Personation	0	0	2	1	2
B.i.1(d)	Plagiarism	17	16	19	26	20
B.i.1(e)	Re-submission of work	0	0	0	2	0
B.i.1(f)	Concoction	2	0	0	0	3
B.i.3(a)	Forgery (academic records)	23	9	8	10	8
B.i.3(b)	Cheating for academic advantage	0	0	1	5	5
B.ii.1	Parties to Offences	0	0	0	0	9
B.ii.1(a).ii	Aiding or assisting another	0	0	0	2	0
B.ii.1(a).iv	Conspiring in offence	0	0	0	0	0
B.ii.2	Intent to commit offence	0	0	0	0	1

* 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 2022-2023*



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

Total Number of Offences by Type per Year

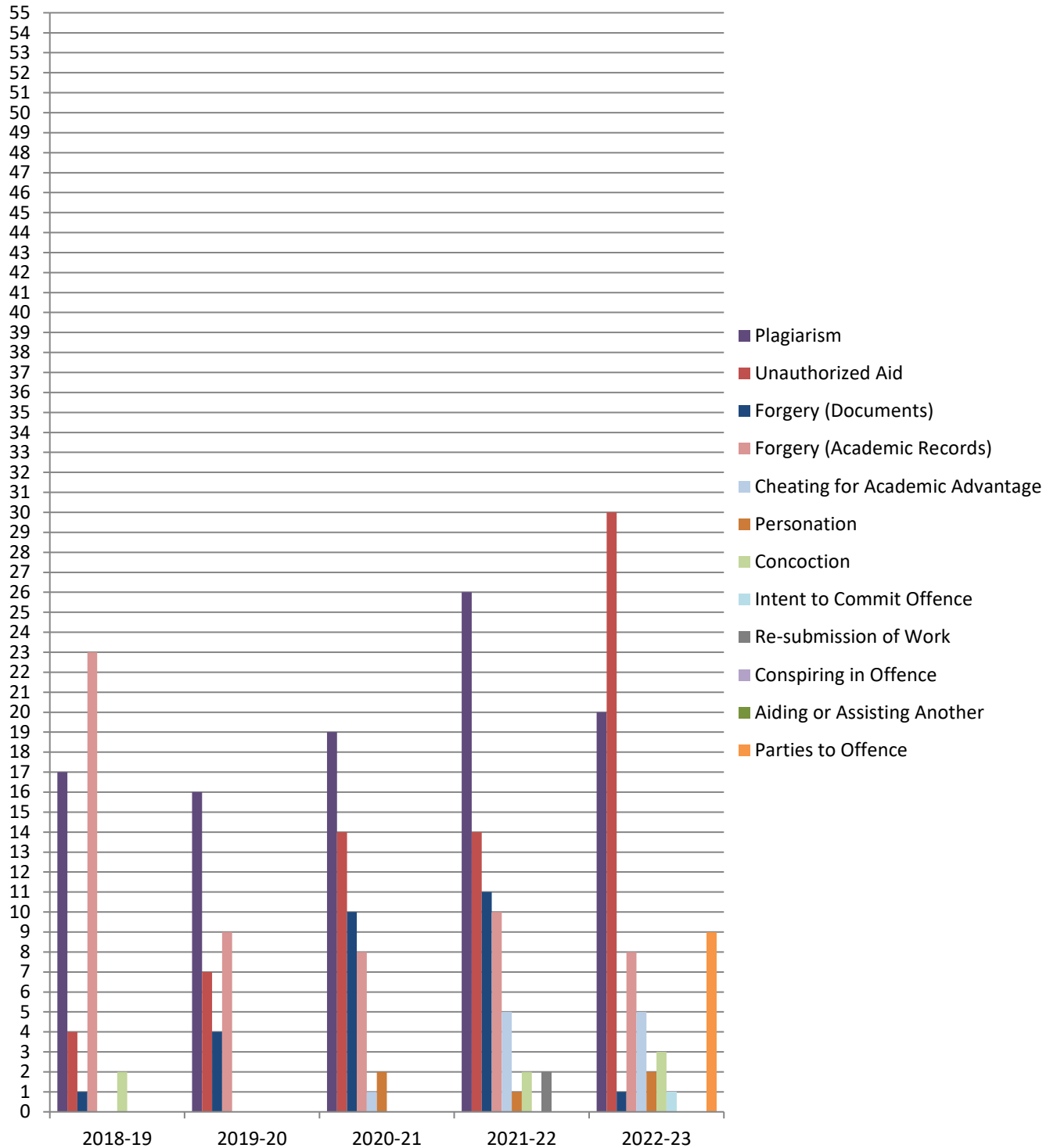


Table 5: Total Number of Offenders by Division*

Division*	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Applied Science & Engineering	2	0	6	3	2
Architecture, Landscape, Design	1	1	1	3	0
Arts & Science	10	13	61	85	61
Dentistry	0	0	0	1	0
Graduate Studies	8	1	1	4	0
Law	0	1	0	0	0
Medicine	0	1	1	0	0
Music	0	0	0	0	0
Nursing	0	0	0	0	0
OISE / UT	0	0	0	0	0
Pharmacy	0	0	0	0	1
Kinesiology & Physical Education	0	0	0	0	0
U of T Mississauga	21	13	14	41	31
U of T Scarborough	7	5	15	17	18

* 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*
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%
2022-23	34%	26%	10.5%	16%	87%

* The total is calculated based on the total number of cases where an order was issued. For all cases in 2022-23 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
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%
2022-23	18%	16%	21%	16%	71%

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% of cases that proceeded to a hearing, either an Order or written reasons were issued within 15 months. There were four cases where neither an order nor reasons were issued within 15 months.