

# Provost's Annual Report on Cases of Academic Discipline 2023-24

## Background

Academic integrity lies at the heart of the University's academic mission and is a responsibility shared with divisions, overseen institutionally by the tri-campus Provostial Advisory Group on Academic Integrity. Deans' offices, dedicated academic integrity offices within the larger academic divisions, as well as faculty members, instructors, librarians, writing centre instructors, and academic advisors all work together to support students to meet the University's expectations around academic integrity.

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 (CBAM)*, cases of student academic misconduct ('cheating') can either be resolved at the divisional level or at the University Tribunal ('Tribunal'). Cases proceed to the Tribunal primarily based on the seriousness of the 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 Tribunal.

## 2023-24 Synopsis

### Divisional overview (See Appendix A)

This year's statistics reveal that, overall, academic offence numbers continue to decline from their pandemic highs. In most of the large divisions, offence numbers peaked in 2020-21, when assessments were held almost entirely online. In 2021-22 and 2022-23, as many assessments returned to in-person format, numbers of offences began to fall. As the current report indicates, in 2023-24, rates of academic misconduct have mostly returned to pre-pandemic levels. This decline reflects the return to invigilated, in-person conditions for most final assessments.

Divisions have made significant efforts to ensure timely resolution of academic discipline allegations against students. In 2023-24, there was an improvement over the previous year in the percentage of cases resolved in six months or less (see Table 4A-D), as well as a significant reduction in the number of cases that took 12-15 months to resolve. Divisions have begun tracking the number of cases resolved in three months or less which, due to the reporting cycle timelines, will be available in next year's version of this report.

Instructors, TAs, 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. Divisions are also working on strategies to reduce the use of unauthorized aids during final exams, including both student educational initiatives and invigilator training programs.

### University Tribunal overview (see Appendix B)

The Tribunal has had another very busy year. While the total number of cases resolved has decreased and the total number of cases that went to a hearing declined slightly, the number of hearing days has increased. Specifically, the number of multi-day hearings has more than doubled, and now accounts for twenty percent of Tribunal hearings. Although this metric is not included in the statistics, it provides important context, by reflecting the increased complexity of the cases, and the activity at the Tribunal level, which in turn explains some of the numbers related to closed cases as well as timeliness.

When examined in detail, and as mentioned in Appendix B's Tables 6A and B, every case that had neither an order nor reasons within 15 months had a rationale, namely – multi-day hearings; fully contested hearings; adjournment requests by students or their counsel etc. – that demonstrates either greater fairness considerations for students, or cases where students were fully engaged in the process.

Given these increased complexities, the Appeals, Discipline and Faculty Grievances (ADFG) Office has recently hired a second Associate Director, whose focus is on student-related processes and hearings. In addition, the ADFG Office has engaged a vendor to leverage Microsoft Dynamics to build a new case management system that will include the ability to capture additional metrics. This system will be finished before the start of the next statistics collection year, so will become an important tool for identifying ways to create further efficiencies, in line with the recommendations of the Ombudsperson.

### Related initiatives

Under the leadership of Vice-Provost Heather Boon, the Provost's Office has just commenced a consultation towards changes to the CBAM, with the support of the Office of University Counsel. This review is focusing on principles of procedural fairness, timeliness, clarity of roles and responsibilities, and upholding fairness and honesty in the academic work of students. Vice-Provost Boon will be reaching out for feedback on these and other principles foundational to academic integrity at U of T. A survey open to all community members is available for submission, in addition to focused consultation sessions with key stakeholders.

As part of the Provost's Task Force on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Provostial Advisor Professor Susan McCahan has been leading discussions with the task force and in broader consultations about the intersections between AI and academic integrity. Work also continues in line with previous years' efforts to educate students on the importance of integrity in their academic work.

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 2023-2024

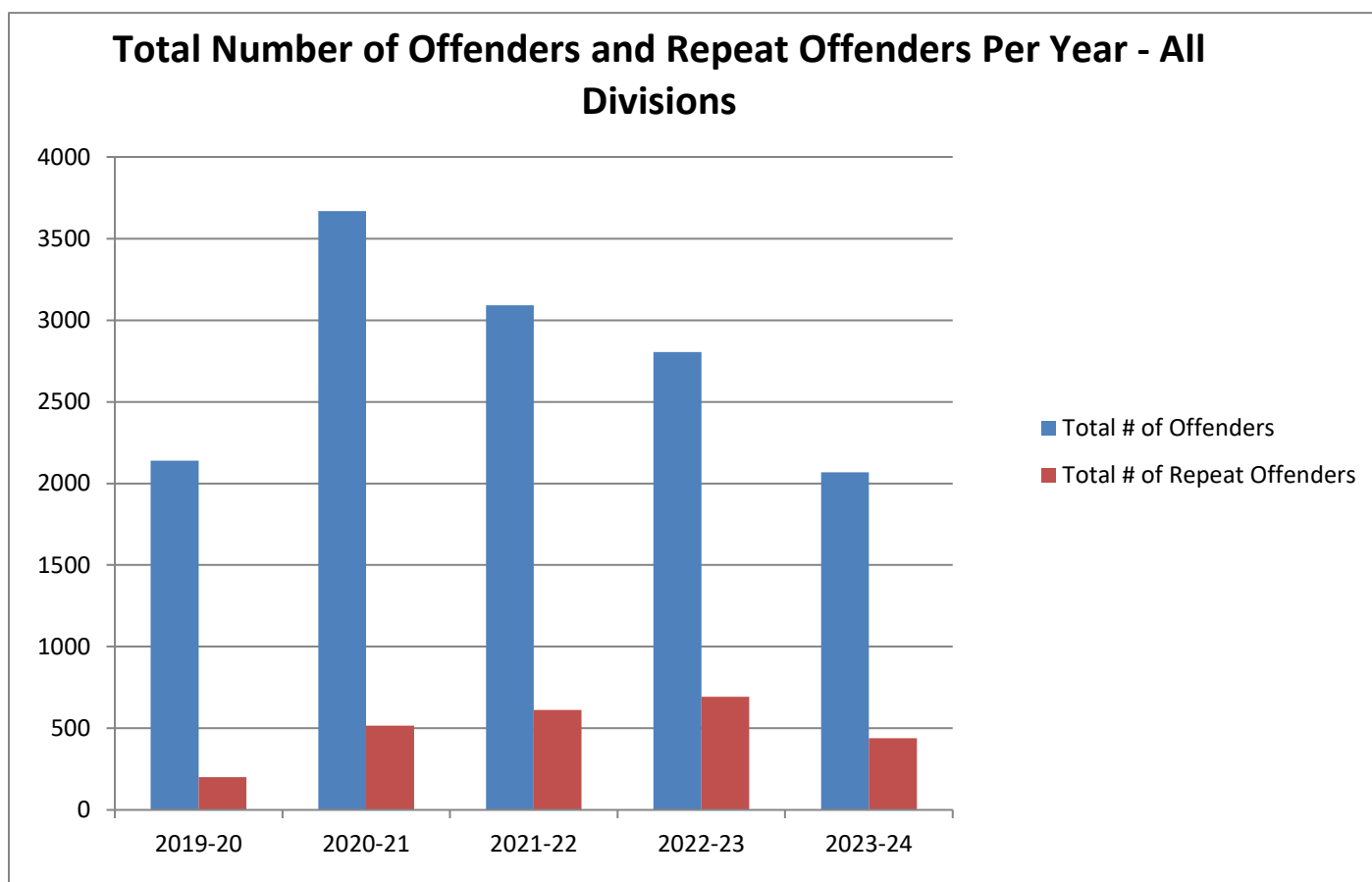
**Table 1: Total Number of Student Offenders by Division**  
(only where a sanction is imposed and the case is closed by the division)

Division	2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	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	226	4.2%	365	6.6%	207	3.7%	122	2.1%	159	2.6%
Architecture	11	1.1%	13	1.2%	20	1.9%	5	0.5%	3	0.3%
Arts & Science	751	2.7%	1396	4.9%	909	3.1%	1494	4.9%	689	2.2%
Dentistry	5	1.1%	7	1.6%	6	1.4%	2	0.5%	1	0.2%
Graduate Studies	39	0.2%	46	0.2%	42	0.2%	33	0.2%	22	0.1%
Law	0	0%	0	0%	1	0.1%	1	0.1%	3	0.5%
Medicine	1	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Music	24	4.3%	3	0.5%	12	2.2%	3	0.5%	12	2.2%
Nursing	1	0.3%	0	0%	1	0.3%	2	0.5%	2	0.5%
Pharmacy	7	0.6%	96	8.2%	34	3%	7	0.6%	3	0.3%
Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education	7	0.7%	17	1.6%	4	0.4%	5	0.5%	7	0.6%
U of T Mississauga	460	3.0%	1339	8.7%	1173	7.4%	833	5.6%	886	5.7%
U of T Scarborough	608	4.4%	386	2.7%	683	4.8%	297	2.1%	281	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2140</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>3668</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>3092</b>	<b>3.2%</b>	<b>2804</b>	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>2068</b>	<b>2.1%</b>

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

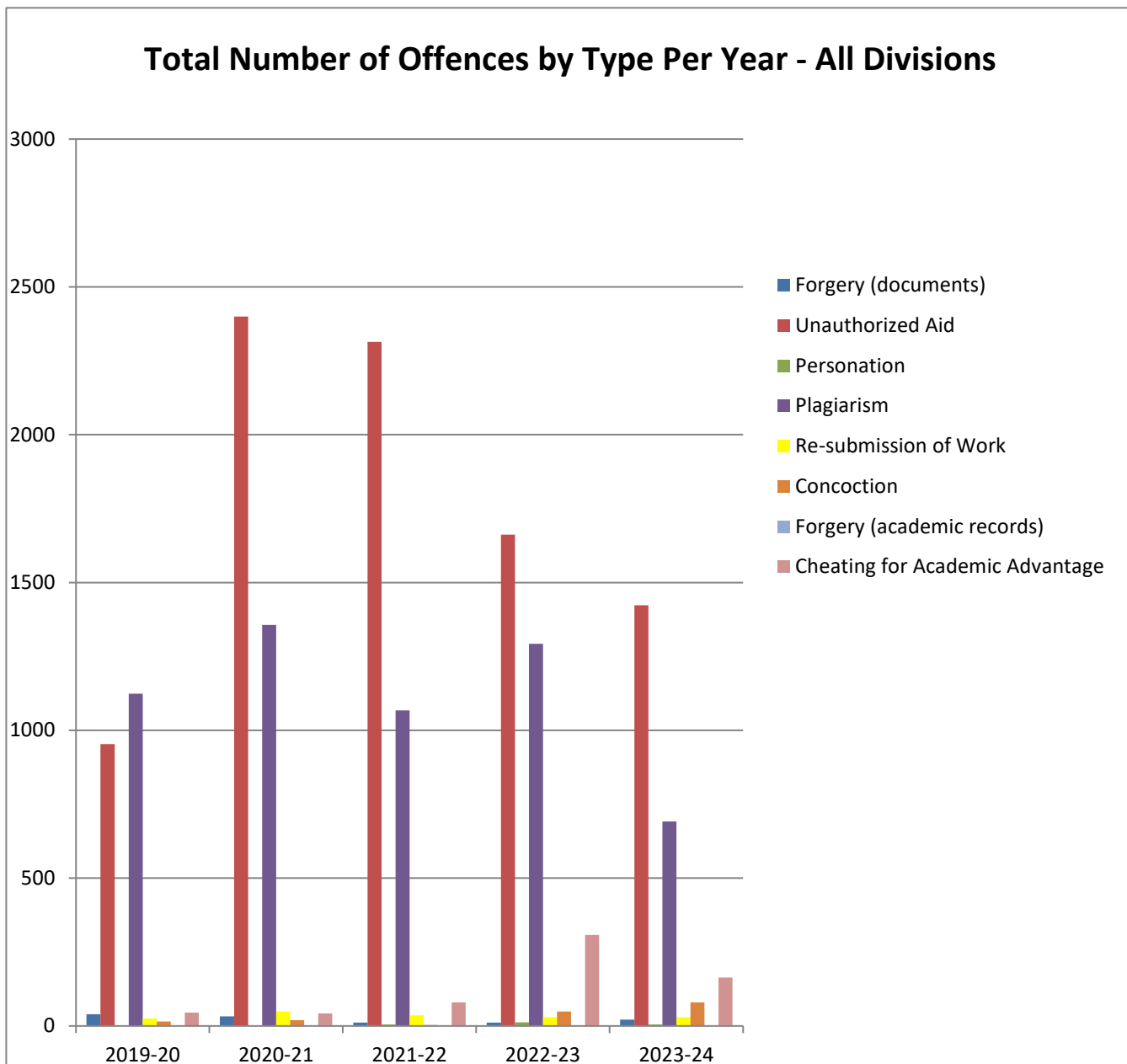
**Table 2: Total Number of Repeat Student Offenders by Division  
(only where sanction is imposed)**

<b>Division</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
Applied Science & Engineering	23	85	32	19	16
Architecture	4	2	1	0	0
Arts & Science	75	175	178	380	170
Dentistry	0	0	0	0	0
Graduate Studies	2	1	1	3	0
Law	0	0	0	0	0
Medicine	0	0	0	0	0
Music	1	0	1	0	0
Nursing	0	0	0	1	0
Pharmacy	0	0	1	0	0
Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education	0	0	0	0	0
U of T Mississauga	60	200	228	221	225
U of T Scarborough	35	54	171	70	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>439</b>

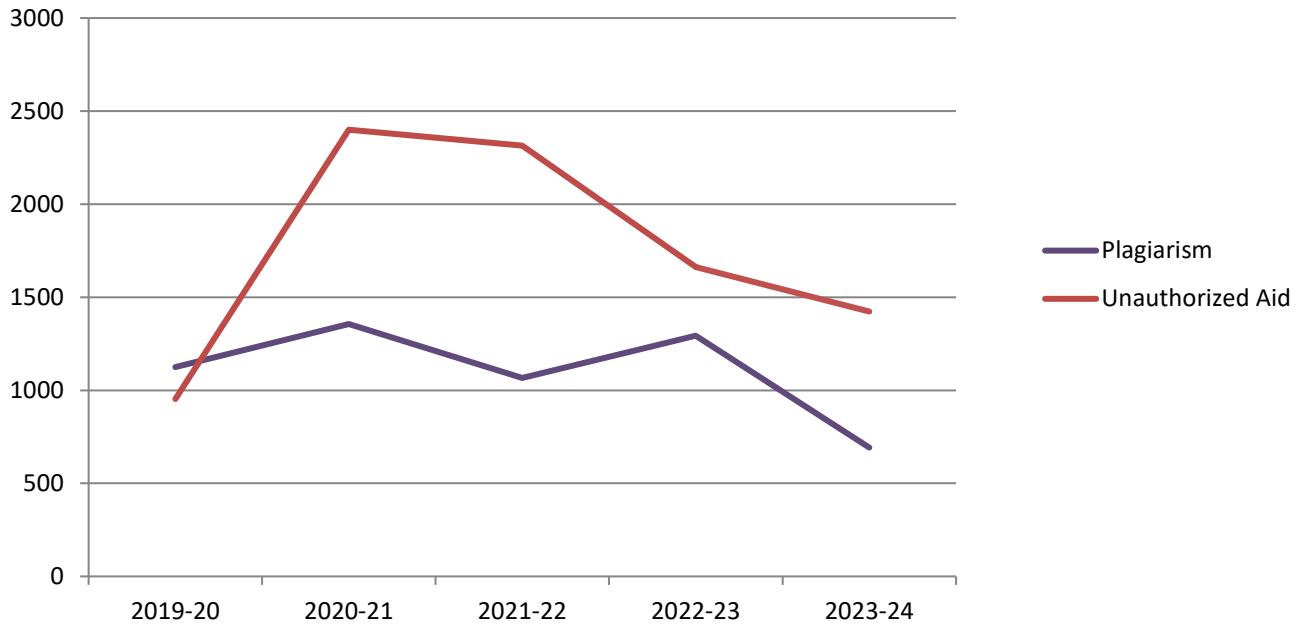


**Table 3: Total Number of Offences by Type – All Divisions**

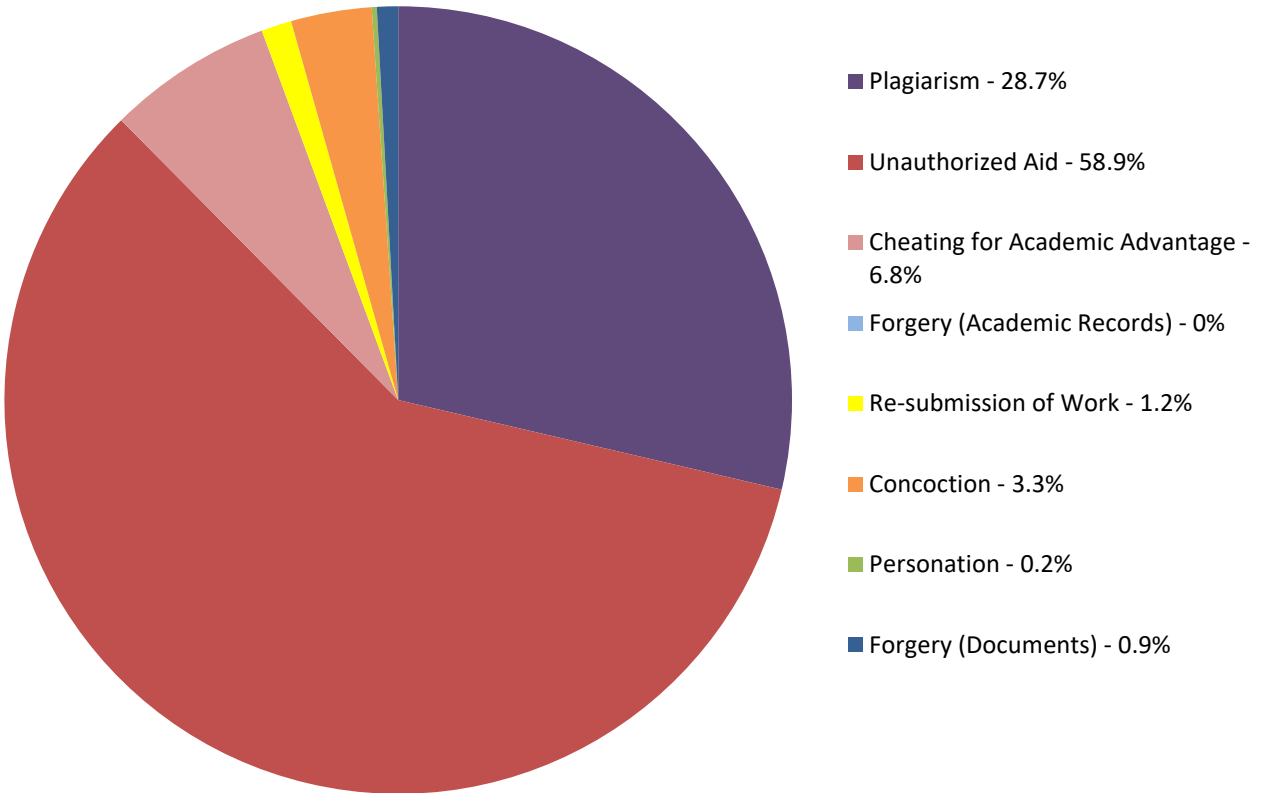
Charge Code	Charge Text	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
B.i.1(a)	Forgery (documents, not transcripts)	40	32	11	11	21
B.i.1(b)	Unauthorized aid	953	2400	2314	1662	1423
B.i.1(c)	Personation	0	2	5	12	5
B.i.1(d)	Plagiarism	1124	1356	1067	1293	692
B.i.1(e)	Re-submission of work	25	49	36	30	30
B.i.1(f)	Concoction	15	20	3	49	80
B.i.3(a)	Forgery (academic records)	1	0	0	0	0
B.i.3(b)	Cheating for academic advantage	45	42	80	308	164
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2203</b>	<b>3901</b>	<b>3516</b>	<b>3365</b>	<b>2415</b>



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



### Total Number of Offences by Type for 2023-24 - 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
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%
2023-24	74.9%	9%	5.3%	2.4%	91.4%

**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
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%
2023-24	84%	4.8%	2.5%	1.9%	93.2%

**Table 4C: Timeliness for 2023-2024 By Division**

Division	2023-24				
	Time between Date of Offence and Case Resolved				
	6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	12-15 months	Total
Applied Science & Engineering	100%				100%
Architecture	100%				100%
Arts & Science	82.4%	8.2%	3.2%	2%	95.8%
Dentistry	100%				100%
Graduate Studies	72%	24%		4%	100%
Law	100%				100%
Medicine	N/A				N/A
Music	100%				100%
Nursing	100%				100%
Pharmacy	100%				100%
Kinesiology & Physical Education	71.4%			14.3%	85.7%
U of T Mississauga	58.3%	12.9%	9.2%	3.4%	83.9%
U of T Scarborough	93.8%	2.2%	1.8%	0.7%	98.5%
<b>Total</b>	74.9%	9%	5.3%	2.4%	91.4%

**Table 4D: Timeliness for 2023-2024 By Division**

	<b>2023-24</b>				
<b>Division</b>	<b>Time between Date Academic Integrity Office Became Aware and Case Resolved</b>				
	<b>6 months</b>	<b>6-9 months</b>	<b>9-12 months</b>	<b>12-15 months</b>	<b>Total</b>
Applied Science & Engineering	100%				100%
Architecture	100%				100%
Arts & Science	90.5%	2.2%	3.2%	0.5%	96.5%
Dentistry	100%				100%
Graduate Studies	100%				100%
Law	100%				100%
Medicine	N/A				N/A
Music	100%				100%
Nursing	100%				100%
Pharmacy	100%				100%
Kinesiology & Physical Education	71.4%			14.3%	85.7%
U of T Mississauga	72.3%	8.6%	3.2%	3.8%	87.9%
U of T Scarborough	98.9%	0.7%			99.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>93.2%</b>

\*For Timeliness Tables 4 A, B, D, and the pie chart, some totals do not equal 100%, either 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 2023-24

**Table 1: Overview of Open Cases**

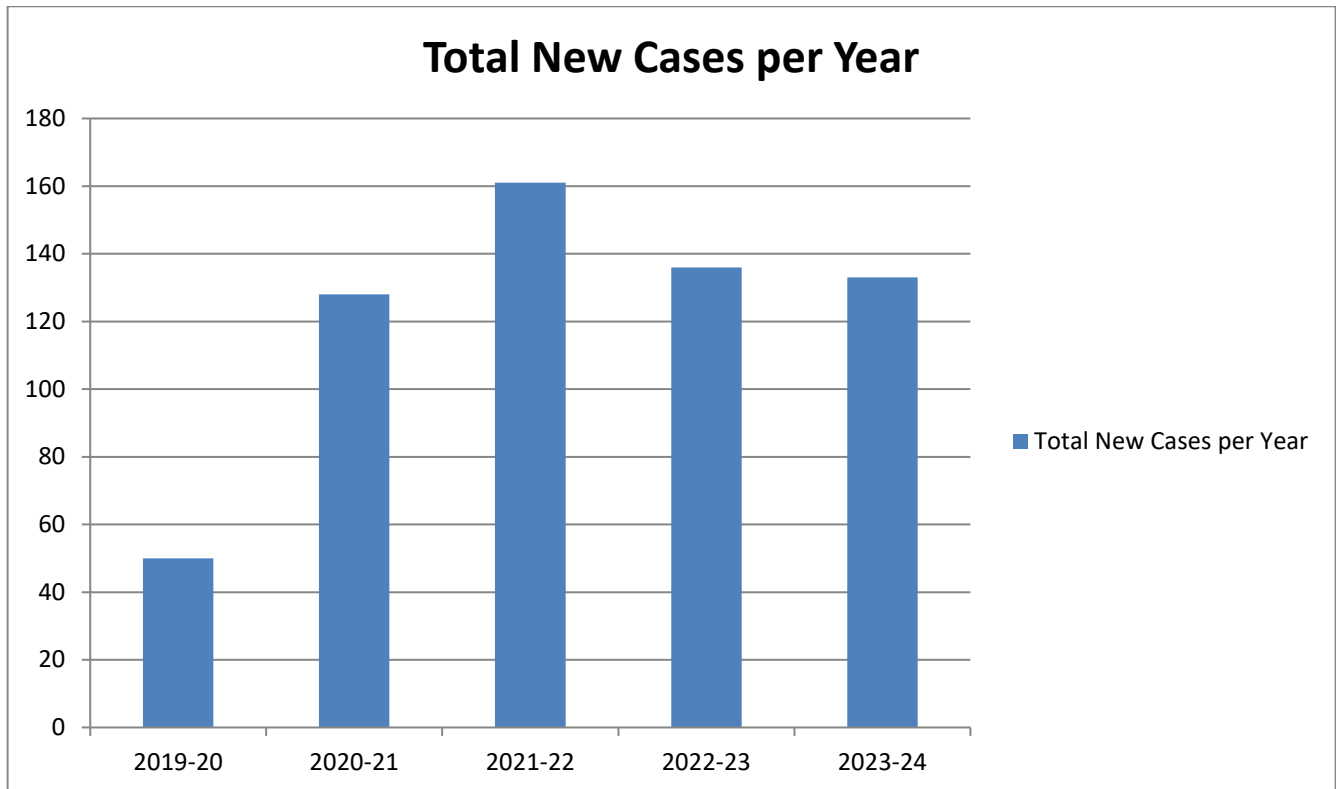
Year July 1-June 30	Cases Carried Forward charges laid before July 1	New Cases* charges laid	Total Open Cases	Cases Resolved**	Cases Carried Forward *** (as of July 1, 2024)
2019-20	51	50	101	35	66
2020-21	66	128	194	99	95
2021-22	95	161	256	154	102
2022-23	102	136	238	113	125
2023-24	125	133	258	95	163****

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

\*\*These include cases where charges were laid but were then returned to the decanal level/settled/withdrawn.

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

\*\*\*\*As of this year a pilot project started for some divisions. Twenty of the pilot project cases are included in this number.



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

Outcome	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Acquittal *	0	1	0	0	0
Degree Recall	0	0	0	0	1
Degree Suspension	0	0	0	0	0
Expulsion from University	7	6	5	5	4
Suspension	11	21	35	33	28
Returned to Decanal Level / Minutes of Settlement/Charges Withdrawn	17	71	114	75	62**

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

\*\* This number does not include the 20 cases that were placed in the pilot project.

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

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Total	0	1	4	1	4

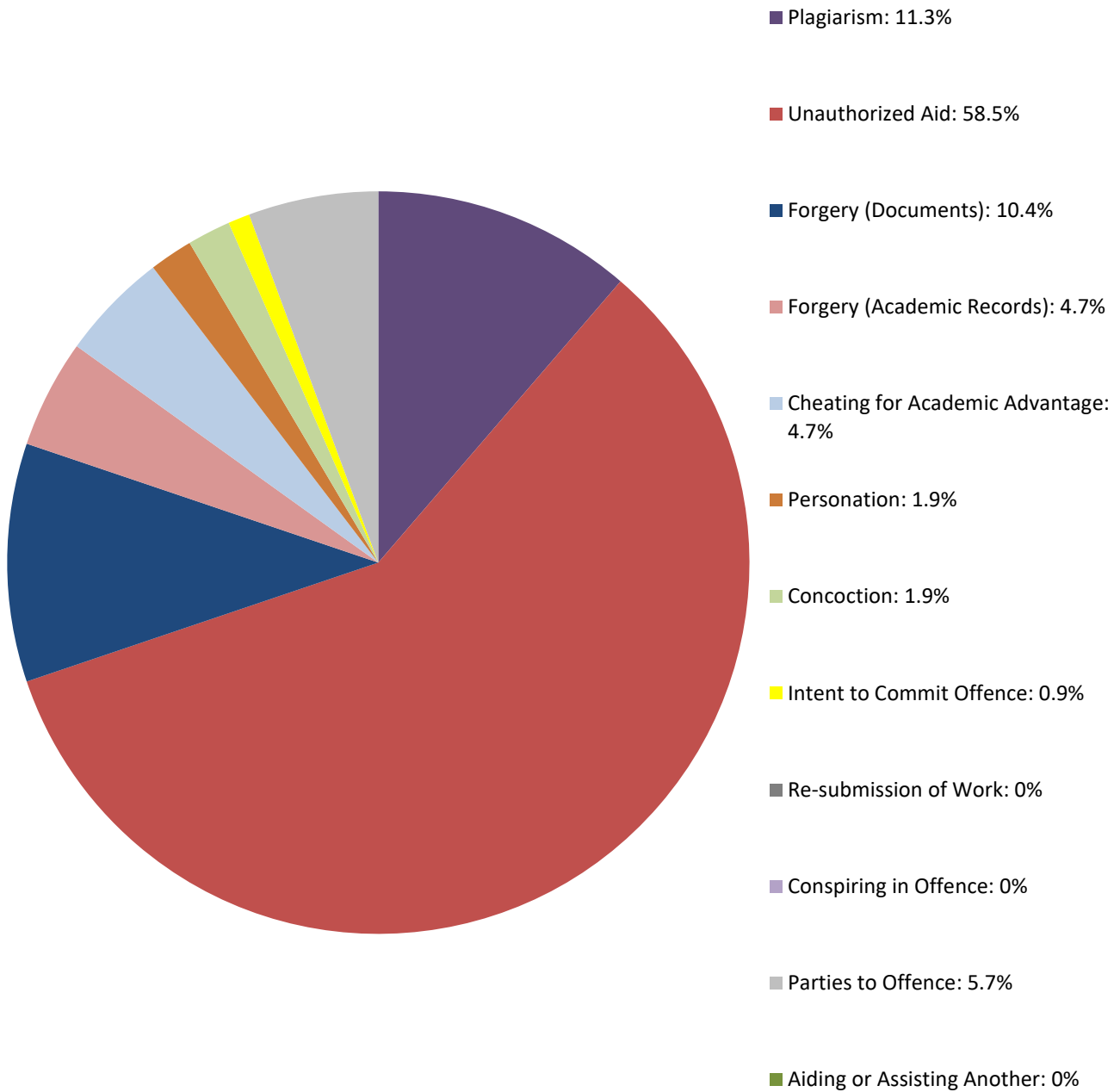
\* Appeal cases are reported in the year the decision is issued, and not in the year the appeal is filed.

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

Charge Code	Charge Text	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
B.i.1(a)	Forgery (documents, not transcripts)	4	10	11	1	11
B.i.1(b)	Unauthorized aid or receiving assistance	7	14	14	30	62
B.i.1(c)	Personation	0	2	1	2	2
B.i.1(d)	Plagiarism	16	19	26	20	12
B.i.1(e)	Re-submission of work	0	0	2	0	0
B.i.1(f)	Concoction	0	0	0	3	2
B.i.3(a)	Forgery (academic records)	9	8	10	8	5
B.i.3(b)	Cheating for academic advantage	0	1	5	5	5
B.ii.1	Parties to Offences	0	0	0	9	6
B.ii.1(a).ii	Aiding or assisting another	0	0	2	0	0
B.ii.1(a).iv	Conspiring in offence	0	0	0	0	0
B.ii.2	Intent to commit offence	0	0	0	1	1

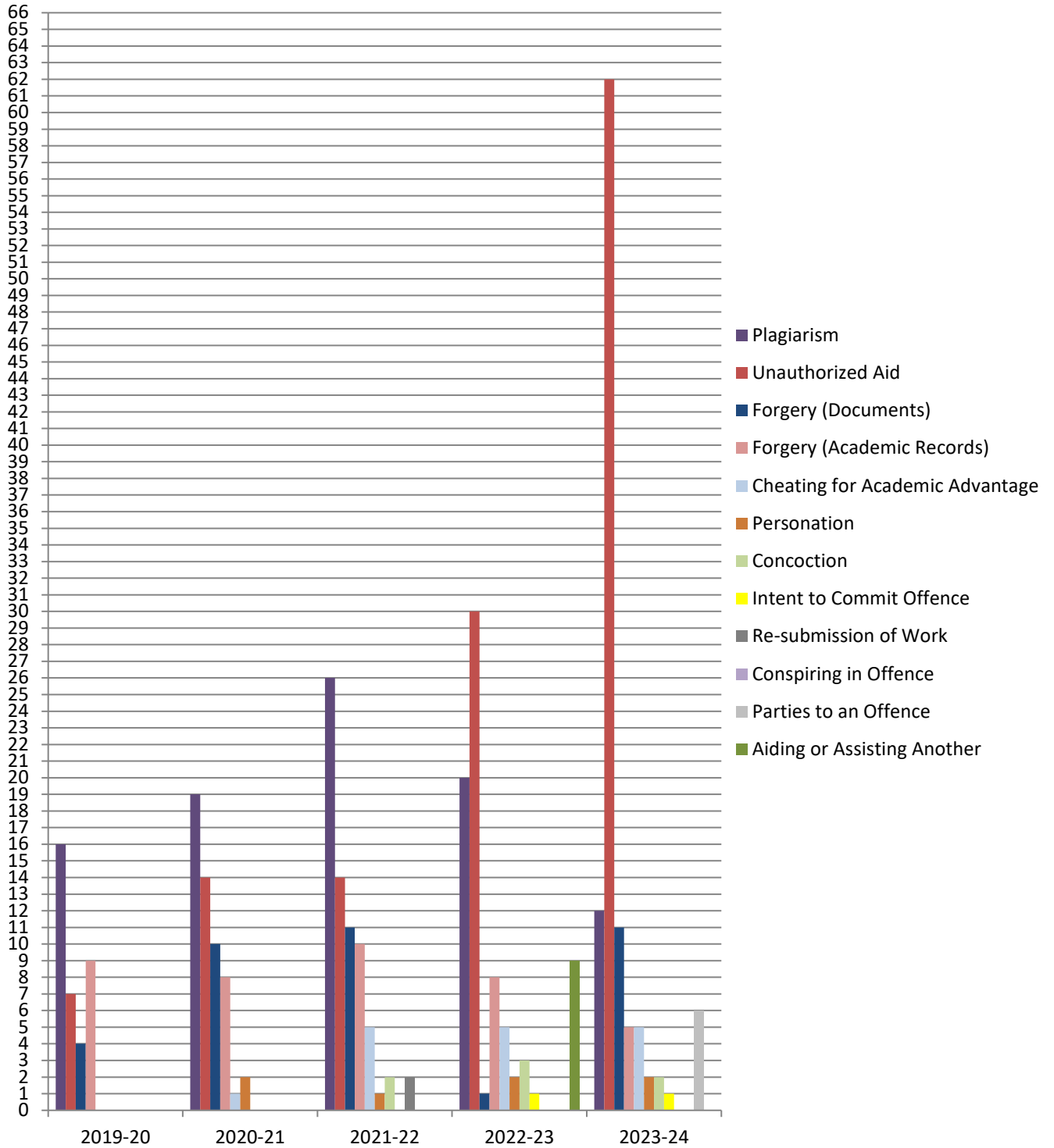
\* This chart captures all offences for which the Tribunal made an official finding of guilt. Cases that went back to the decanal level are counted by the Division, in order to avoid double counting.

# Total Percentage of Offences by Type for 2023-2024\*



\*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*	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Applied Science & Engineering	0	6	3	2	2
Architecture, Landscape, Design	1	1	3	0	0
Arts & Science	13	61	85	61	50
Dentistry	0	0	1	0	0
Graduate Studies	1	1	4	0	1
Law	1	0	0	0	1
Medicine	1	1	0	0	0
Music	0	0	0	0	1
Nursing	0	0	0	0	0
Pharmacy	0	0	0	1	0
Kinesiology & Physical Education	0	0	0	0	0
U of T Mississauga	13	14	41	31	16
U of T Scarborough	5	15	17	18	24

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

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

Sample Size	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*
18	2019-20	53%	33%	13%	0%	99%
28	2020-21	44%	22%	7%	7%	81%
40	2021-22	65%	15%	10%	2.5%	92.5%
38	2022-23	34%	26%	10.5%	16%	87%
33	2023-24	36%	18%	9%	12%	75.5%

\* The total is calculated based on the total number of cases where an order was issued. For all cases in 2023-24 an order was issued.

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

Sample Size	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
18	2019-20	22%	39%	17%	11%	89%
28	2020-21	21%	18%	25%	7%	71%
40	2021-22	35%	22.5%	20%	10%	87.5%
38	2022-23	18%	16%	21%	16%	71%
33	2023-24	3%	30%	9%	15%	57.5%

**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. In three-quarters of all cases that proceeded to a hearing, either an order or written reasons were issued within 15 months. Of these cases, all involved one or more of the following factors: an adjournment request by the student or their counsel; delay on the part of the student or their counsel; a fully contested hearing; or multiple hearing dates.