



**UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY**

**Faculty of Science Procedures for Appeals of Academic Assessment and Graded Term Work**

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- 1 Principles, Scope and Definitions**
- 1.1 The Faculty of Science appeal process for Academic Assessment and graded term work Decisions:
    - a) is confidential,
    - b) provides procedural fairness,
    - c) strives for consistency in terms of its decisions,
    - d) is administratively efficient, and
    - e) contributes to a fair and just University.
  - 1.2 A Student wanting to appeal an Academic Assessment or graded term work decision made by the Faculty of Science in a course offered by the Faculty of Science must use these procedures.
  - 1.3 The term “Academic Assessment” means the determination of a student’s final level of achievement in a specific Faculty of Science course, and includes grades, credit or fail designations, and, if specified in a Faculty of Science course outline, assessments of all aspects of professional behaviour.
  - 1.4 The term “Academic Progression Matter” means a matter regarding a Student’s academic achievement in the Student’s program. Academic Progression Matters include:

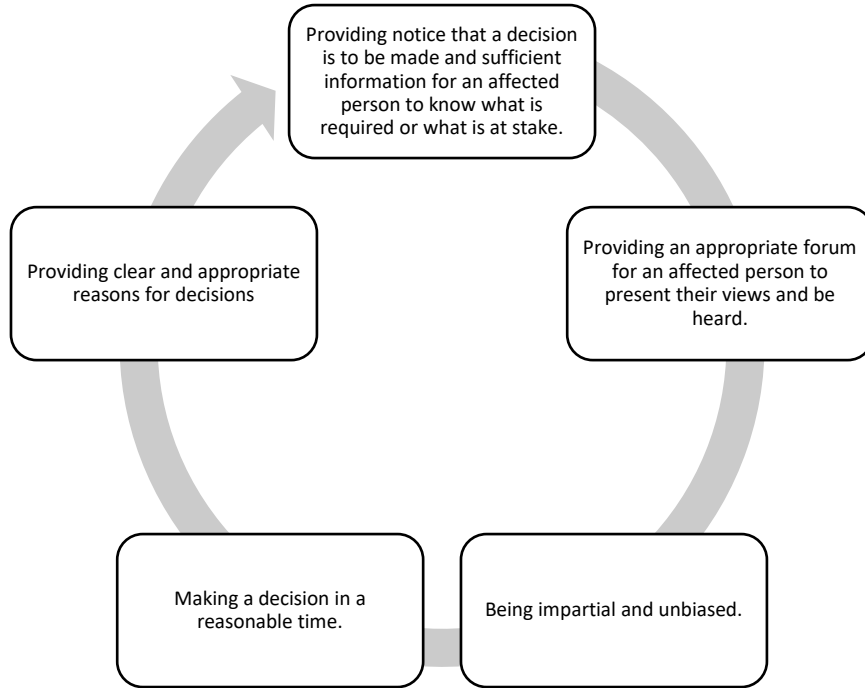


assessments of all aspects of professional behaviour as required in University documents other than a course outline; dismissals; or the requirement to withdraw. Academic progression matters do not include: decisions regarding Academic Assessments or Student Academic Misconduct.

- 1.5 The term “Appellant” means a Student who appeals an Academic Assessment or Graded Term Work decision about themselves.
- 1.6 The term “Business Days” means days that the University is open for business, excluding weekends and holiday closures.
- 1.7 The term “Dean” refers to the Dean of the Faculty of Science or their delegate.
- 1.8 The term “Faculty Appeals Committee” means the Faculty of Science Student Appeals Committee.
- 1.9 The term “Graded Term Work” refers to graded term work (term paper, essay, test, etc.) as described in Section 1.2 *Reappraisal of Graded Term Work* of the [academic regulations](#) of the University Calendar.
- 1.10 The term “Grade Reappraisal Decision” refers to the result of a reappraisal of Graded Term Work or an Academic Assessment (final grade) completed in the manner set out in Section 1.3 *Reappraisal of Academic Assessments (final grades)* of the [academic regulations](#) of the University Calendar.
- 1.11 The term “Hearing Panel” means the hearing panel of the Faculty Appeals Committee as constituted under these procedures and with the authority granted in these procedures, and is a sub-committee of the Faculty Appeals Committee.
- 1.12 The term “Reasonable Apprehension of Bias” generally means that a reasonable and informed person, viewing the matter realistically and practically, would think that it is more likely than not that a decision maker was biased in respect of the decision under appeal.
- 1.13 The term “Respondent” means a person who is responsible for the Grade Reappraisal Decision.
- 1.14 The term “Student” means an individual who is registered in a course in the Faculty of Science, at the time the decision under appeal occurred.
- 1.15 The term “Student Academic Misconduct” means plagiarism, cheating or other academic misconduct as defined in the [academic regulations](#) of the University Calendar or in any University policy that defines student academic misconduct;
- 1.16 The term “Student Non-academic Misconduct” means conduct that is prohibited as outlined in [Appendix 1: Prohibited Conduct](#) of the [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)
- 1.17 The term “University” means the University of Calgary.



**2 Procedural Fairness: Necessary for Decisions**



**3 Appellant Responsibilities and Grounds of Appeal**

- 3.1 A student may appeal an Academic Assessment or graded term work decision only on the following grounds:
  - a) that a procedural irregularity occurred in making the Academic Assessment or graded term work Decision, or
  - b) that the Academic Assessment or graded term work Decision was determined on some basis other than performance, which may include allegations of a reasonable apprehension of bias.
- 3.2 The following are not recognized as grounds for appeal by the Faculty of Science Appeals Committee, and will result in an appeal being rejected:
  - a) ignorance of University or Faculty policies, regulations, procedures, or the contents of a course outline;
  - b) mere dissatisfaction or disagreement with the Academic Assessment or graded term work decision, the course outline, or performance expectations;
  - c) achievement in other course work or programs;
  - d) extenuating circumstances; or
  - e) the numerical calculation being close to the next highest letter grade.



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- 3.3 Appellants may ask for only one of the following outcomes in their appeal:
- that the Academic Assessment or graded term work decision be returned to the department or decision maker for another reappraisal, as directed by the Hearing Panel; or
  - that the Academic Assessment or graded term work decision be returned to the department, decision maker or Dean, as appropriate, for other resolution, which resolution must be in accordance with applicable University and Faculty policies, regulations and procedures; or
  - That Graded Term Work be discounted from the final grade achieved.

3.4 An Appellant is responsible to satisfy the Dean or the Faculty of Science Appeals Committee Hearing Panel that the appellant's evidence or position is more likely than not to have occurred or to be accurate. This is referred to as the balance of probabilities standard of proof.

#### 4 Submitting an Appeal

4.1 Prior to submitting an appeal under these procedures, a Student must have completed all steps required by Section I *Reappraisal of Graded Term Work and Academic Assessments (final grades)* of the [academic regulations](#) of the University Calendar.

4.2 Appellants must submit an appeal in writing, (as an attachment in an email) to [science@ucalgary.ca](mailto:science@ucalgary.ca) to the Faculty of Science Appeal Committee on or before 11:59 PM (MT) on the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) Business Day after completing all steps referred to in Section 4.1 above.

4.3 Each appeal must include:

- the Appellant's student ID number, current address and telephone contact number(s),
- the Academic Assessment or graded term work decision being appealed,
- the specific ground for the appeal,
- the outcome sought by the Appellant (see Section 3.3. above),
- copies of all documentation relevant to the appeal, including any correspondence regarding the decision being appealed, and
- copies of any additional supporting evidence.

#### 5 Receipt of the Appeal

5.1 The Dean [or delegate] may resolve the appeal to the Appellant's satisfaction or refer the appeal directly to the Chair of the Faculty of Science Appeals Committee. In either case, the Faculty office will acknowledge the Appellant's appeal within two (2) Business Days of receipt of the appeal. Within ten (10) Business Days of receipt of the appeal, the Faculty office will either notify the Appellant in writing of the resolution of the appeal or forward the appeal to the Chair of the Faculty of Science Appeals Committee.



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- 5.2 Within ten (10) Business Days of receipt of an appeal, the Chair of the Faculty of Science Appeals Committee will issue correspondence that indicates whether:
  - a) the appeal is denied, or
  - b) the appeal is proceeding to a written or oral hearing before a Hearing Panel.
- 5.3 Where the Chair has determined that the appeal is proceeding to a hearing and the appeal alleges that the Academic Assessment or graded term work decision was determined on some basis other than performance, an oral hearing will normally be held.
- 5.4 If the Chair determines that the appeal is proceeding to a written or oral hearing before a Hearing Panel, the correspondence contemplated in Section 5.2 will include: i) the timeline for a written hearing or the oral hearing date, location and time, and ii) the names of the Hearing Panel members that will hear and decide the appeal. The Chair will also request a response to the appeal from the Respondent, to be submitted no later than five (5) Business Days before the hearing.

**6 Prior to a  
Hearing**

- 6.1 An Appellant and a Respondent will be given five (5) Business Days advance notice of the time and place of the oral hearing. In order to ensure timely resolution of appeals, Appellants and Respondents are expected to make the necessary scheduling arrangements to participate in the hearing. The Chair will grant amendments to the hearing dates only if a written request is made and only if there are exceptional circumstances that necessitate an amendment.
- 6.2 If necessary, an Appellant or a Respondent may be offered the opportunity to attend a hearing over teleconference, videoconference, or some other electronic means.
- 6.3 Both the Appellant and the Respondent have the right to have a person of their choice appear with them at the hearing to support them. Unless otherwise decided by the Chair, persons attending in a support role are not allowed to present evidence, to ask questions, or to address either the Respondent or the Hearing Panel during the hearing.
- 6.4 Both the Appellant and the Respondent have the right to challenge the membership of the Hearing Panel. The Appellant and Respondent have five (5) Business Days after the receipt of the names of the panel members to submit a challenge requesting that a panel member not participate in the Appeal hearing. Challenges may only be made where it is claimed that a Hearing Panel member has a conflict of interest that may prevent a fair decision being made. A challenge must be made in writing by email to the Chair of the Hearing Panel, and must include evidence supporting the challenge. A challenge will be decided by the Chair, unless the Chair is the subject of the challenge, in which case the remaining Panel members will decide the challenge. If the challenge is successful, the Chair will provide the names of the new Panel to the Appellant and the Respondent and adjust the hearing timeline as needed. Where a challenge regarding the Chair is successful, the Chair will be replaced by the Vice Chair.



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**7 Hearing  
Process**

- 6.5 Both the Appellant and Respondent will receive copies of all submissions, documents and evidence relating to the decision being appealed no later than five (5) Business Days before the hearing.
- 7.1 The Chair of the Hearing Panel will conduct a written or oral hearing in the manner that they consider fair and reasonable. Any procedural requests will likely result in an extension of the hearing process and the rescheduling of the appeal hearing.
- 7.2 Where the Chair decides that the Appeal Hearing will be in writing, the Chair will provide the Hearing Panel, the Appellant, and the Respondent with written notice of the Chair's decision, along with:
- a) a copy of this procedure;
  - b) the appeal;
  - c) the Respondent's response to the appeal;
  - d) any other documentation received from either the Appellant or the Respondent, or that the Hearing Panel may consider;
  - e) Any questions the Hearing Panel has for the Appellant or the Respondent, and the date that responses must be provided; and
  - f) the date on which the Appellant must provide any final submissions to the Hearing Panel for consideration.
- 7.3 Generally, at the commencement of an oral hearing, the Chair of the Hearing Panel will:
- a) introduce everyone participating in the hearing, provide an overview of the process, confirm that there are no conflict of interest matters, and summarize the appeal, the issues to be decided and the outcome sought;
  - b) invite the Appellant to present their appeal;
  - c) invite the Respondent to present the response to the appeal;
  - d) invite the Appellant and Respondent to ask questions of each other, and invite members of the Hearing Panel to ask questions of both, with questions being directed through the Chair;
  - e) provide the Respondent with an opportunity to make any final comments; and
  - f) provide the Appellant with an opportunity to make any final comments.
- 7.4 Following either an oral or written hearing process, the Hearing Panel will meet *in camera* to consider the evidence and make a decision. Legal Counsel to the Hearing Panel, if any, and any support personnel for the Hearing Panel may attend deliberations.
- 7.5 If the Appellant or Respondent does not attend an oral hearing or participate in a written hearing process, the Hearing Panel may proceed with the hearing in the absence of the Appellant or Respondent and, for oral hearings, may accept the written documentation submitted by the non-attending party in lieu of oral submissions made in person.



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**8 The Faculty of  
Science  
Appeals  
Committee  
Decision**

- 8.1 All members of the Hearing Panel hearing an appeal will vote. The final decision will be carried by a majority vote.
- 8.2 Decisions of the Hearing Panel will be based solely on information, documentation and evidence that has been submitted to the Panel from the Appellant and the Respondent or that has been provided in advance of, or at, the hearing to the Appellant and Respondent by the Hearing Panel.
- 8.3 The Hearing Panel's decision will normally include a brief description of the history of the appeal, a summary of the evidence, the reasons for the decision and the resulting outcome.
- 8.4 Graded Term Work appeal decisions are final and cannot be appealed further to the University Appeals Committee. The decision letter will inform the Appellant that there is no further right of appeal at the University.
- 8.5 Academic Assessment appeal decisions are appealable to the University Appeals Committee, pursuant to the allowable grounds of appeal. The decision letter will inform the Appellant that they have a further right of appeal under the Student Misconduct and Academic Appeals policy.
- 8.6 Decisions of the Chair as to whether to grant leave to appeal, allow accommodations, and any pre-hearing procedural decisions are not appealable to the University Appeals Committee.
- 8.7 The Hearing Panel decision will not record any dissenting opinions.
- 8.8 The Chair of the Hearing Panel will distribute the decision using UCalgary email addresses to the Appellant and the Respondent within ten (10) Business Days of the close of the written hearing process or the end of the oral hearing to:
  - a) the Appellant,
  - b) the Associate Dean of the appropriate program office, and
  - c) if appropriate, the Registrar.
- 8.9 The Chair can make recommendations to the Dean to improve Faculty regulations or procedures.

**9 Confidentiality  
and Recording  
of Information**

- 9.1 All written and oral information regarding an appeal is confidential.
- 9.2 A hearing will not be open to the public.
- 9.3 All appeal records will be retained for twelve (12) years.
- 9.4 There will be no audio or video recording of the hearing by the Hearing Panel or any party or participant.



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**10 Jurisdiction of the Dean, the Chair of the Faculty of Science Appeals Committee, and the Faculty of Science Appeals Committee<sup>1</sup>**

- 10.1 The Dean of Faculty of Science has the jurisdiction to resolve an appeal made under these procedures to an Appellant's satisfaction in any circumstance.
- 10.2 In addition to participating in the decision making process for appeals made under these procedures, the Chair of the Faculty of Science Appeals Committee also has the jurisdiction to deny an appeal or to determine that a hearing is necessary and the process for that hearing.
- 10.3 The Chair may only deny an appeal where:
- a) the appeal was not submitted before the deadline;
  - b) the decision being appealed is not identified;
  - c) the appeal does not contain the information required by these procedures;
  - d) the decision being appealed does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Faculty of Science Appeals Committee;
  - e) the appeal is made by a person who is not a Student; or the legal counsel of a Student
  - f) the Appellant has not yet completed all steps required in Section I *Reappraisal of Graded Term Work and Academic Assessments (final grades)* of the [academic regulations](#) of the University Calendar; including speaking with the Student's instructor, department head or associate dean, and seeking a grade reappraisal, if appropriate; or
  - g) the Appellant does not raise any grounds or request a specific outcome, or raises grounds or outcomes other than those permitted by these procedures.
- 10.4 A decision made by the Chair in accordance with this procedure is final and not appealable to the University Appeals Committee.
- 10.5 The Faculty of Science Appeals Committee, through a Hearing Panel, has the jurisdiction to hear and decide appeals of Academic Assessment or graded term work Decisions.
- 10.6 The Faculty of Science Appeals Committee, through a Hearing Panel, does not have jurisdiction to hear appeals regarding decisions related to:
- a) Student Academic Misconduct;
  - b) Student Non-academic Misconduct;
  - c) Academic Progression Matters;
  - d) the Student Accommodation Policy; or
  - e) extenuating circumstances.
- 10.7 After hearing an appeal, the Hearing Panel may:
- a) deny the appeal;

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<sup>1</sup> **NOTE:** In the case where the Academic Assessment being appealed is the initial decision of the Faculty of Graduate Studies regarding a Graduate Student's thesis exam or candidacy component, the appeal must be made to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Please see the University and Graduate Studies Calendars for more information.





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- b) uphold the appeal and determine that the Academic Assessment or graded term work decision should be returned to the department or decision maker for another reappraisal, as directed by the Hearing Panel; or
- c) uphold the appeal and direct that the Academic Assessment or graded term work decision be returned to the department, decision maker or Dean for other resolution, which resolution must be in accordance with applicable University and Faculty policies, regulations and procedures; or
- d) Uphold the appeal and direct that Graded Term Work be discounted from the final grade achieved.

**11 Composition of  
the Faculty of  
Science  
Appeals  
Committee**

- 11.1 The Faculty of Science Appeals Committee will consist of the following members:
  - a) One (1) continuing academic staff member as Chair, appointed by the Dean;
  - b) One (1) continuing academic staff member as Vice Chair, appointed by the Dean from among the academic staff members chosen in 11.1.c);
  - c) One (1) academic staff member chosen by and from each department in the Faculty of Science;
  - d) Three (3) undergraduate students in good academic standing from the Faculty of Science chosen by the Students' Union; and
  - e) One (1) graduate student in good standing from the Faculty of Science, appointment by the Faculty.
- 11.2 Faculty of Science Appeals Committee members will normally serve for a two year term. Normally, the term will be staggered so that half of the members are replaced each year.

**12 Meetings of  
the Faculty of  
Science  
Appeals  
Committee**

- 12.1 The Faculty of Science Appeals Committee will meet at least once per academic year, usually in Fall Semester.
- 12.2 The quorum for meetings of the committee will be 50% of the membership.

**13 Composition of  
the Hearing  
Panel**

- 13.1 A Hearing Panel will be selected by the Chair and drawn from the Faculty of Science Appeals Committee members. The quorum for a Hearing Panel for deciding an appeal is four (4) Faculty of Science Appeals Committee members, constituted as follows:
  - a) the Committee Chair or Committee Vice Chair;



- b) two (2) Committee member chosen from the committee members specified in 11.1.c); and
- c) one (1) undergraduate student or one (1) graduate student member of the Committee, as appropriate.

**14 Timelines**

Appeal Step	Timeline for Communication
Student submits appeal to the Faculty of Science	Within 10 Business Days of the date of the written decision being appealed
Faculty office will acknowledge receipt of the appeal	Within 2 Business Days of receipt of the appeal
Dean will resolve the appeal or forward to the Faculty of Science Appeals Committee Chair	Within 10 Business Days of receipt of the appeal
Chair will determine whether the appeal is denied or whether the appeal will proceed to a written or oral hearing. If appeal is proceeding to a hearing, Chair will request the Respondent provide a response to the appeal.	Within 10 Business Days of the date of receipt of the appeal
Circulation of all submissions, documentation and evidence that will be used by the Faculty of Science Appeals Committee in making its decision to the Appellant, Respondent and to the Faculty of Science Appeals Committee	No later than 5 Business Days before the hearing.
Faculty of Science Appeals Committee decision	Normally within 10 Business Days after the hearing.
Appeal to University Appeals Committee	Where appropriate, within 10 Business Days of the date of the written Faculty of Science Appeals Committee decision