Complaint and Disciplinary Procedures

Students who believe that they have been treated improperly for any reason are encouraged to raise their concerns. Difficulties with other students can be pursued through the living group, department head, other appropriate venues or groups, and the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (OSCCS) on the MIT website. Students may also bring concerns to the attention of an ombudsperson.

It is the Institute's policy that individuals will not be retaliated against for initiating an inquiry or complaint in good faith.

Anyone—including individual students, faculty members, and employees of the Institute—may bring a formal complaint against a student to the Committee on Discipline (COD). The COD reviews cases of academic offenses, violations of Institute regulations and standards, and other infractions alleged to have been committed by students.

A formal complaint against a student must be submitted to OSCC. The charge and its documentation are transmitted to the chair of the COD. After a review of the documentation, the chair will decide the appropriate method of resolution. The COD has the authority to impose any sanction it deems appropriate. Possible sanctions include placing a letter in a student's disciplinary file, probation, suspension, and expulsion. Sanctions may also include educational and/or restorative components meant to address the wrongdoing and serve the larger community. Detailed procedures for resolving complaints alleging that a student has violated MIT policies are available from the OSCC and from the COD.

This procedure serves also as the grievance procedure for students as required by Title IX of the Higher Education Act of 1972 with regard to grievances arising out of alleged discrimination on the basis of sex, and for disabled students alleging failure to comply with Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

A complaint against anyone employed by MIT may be discussed with the immediate or higher supervisor in the center, lab, department, or school where the concern arose, with an administrative officer (AO) if applicable, or with the human resources office on campus or at Lincoln Laboratory. A written request for a formal review of a complaint should be made to a human resources officer.