

**STUDENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

Grievances arise out of a decision or action reached in the course of official duty by a member of the faculty, staff or administration of California State University, Fresno, which is alleged to be discriminatory, contrary to accepted academic relationships and procedures, or restrictive of the rights of any student of the University to fair treatment. The purpose of the grievance procedures is to provide a means by which the harmful effects on the student may be remedied; the procedures are not intended to initiate disciplinary action against a member of the faculty, staff or administration.

Every student has the right to seek resolution of a grievance. The right includes a full and impartial examination of an alleged grievance, a prompt decision, and appeal for review in accordance with established procedures. The Student Grievance Procedures do not in any way cover grading matters, which remain in the sole and exclusive jurisdiction of the Student Academic Petitions Committee. Confidentiality shall be maintained throughout the entire grievance process.

Any student who believes grounds for a grievance exist shall make an attempt in good faith to resolve the problem through early informal discussion of the matter with the academic or administrative member directly involved. The office of the Dean of Student Affairs may be of assistance in this informal discussion if the student so requests. If the student is not satisfied, an attempt should be made to resolve the grievance through one of the following channels:

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1. In the case of academic personnel, the chairperson of the department and the dean of the school.
2. In the case of support staff or administrative personnel, the employee's immediate supervisor and the director of the administrative unit.

If a resolution of the problem is not effected through the informal procedures, the student, upon presentation of a signed petition to the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs, may seek redress through an official examination of the facts by the Student Grievance Board. Students should contact the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs (Joyal 224) for further assistance regarding grievance procedures and for a copy of the Student Grievance Procedures document.

**CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

The University has a written policy statement on cheating and plagiarism which includes specific steps that will be taken in the event that an incident of cheating or plagiarism is suspected. The full text of the document is available in the Dean of Student Affairs Office, Joyal Administration Building, Room 224. Below are the University definitions of cheating and plagiarism:

*Cheating:* Cheating is the willful and intentional practice of fraudulent and deceptive acts for the purpose of improving a grade or obtaining course credit. Typically, such acts occur in relation to examinations. It is the intent of this definition that the term "cheating" not be limited to examinations situations only, but that it include any and all behavior by a student which is intended to gain an unearned academic advantage by fraudulent and deceptive means.

*Plagiarism:* Plagiarism is herein identified as a specific form of fraudulent and deceptive act which consists of the willful and intentional misuse of the