

Studies have concluded that academic misconduct by college students—plagiarism and cheating—has increased since the beginning of the twenty-first century. Because the sanctions for academic misconduct may be severe (suspension, expulsion, or at a minimum, an entry on the student’s transcript of an academic integrity violation), the incentive for students to challenge these sanctions is substantial. This article reviews legal challenges brought by students since the year 2000 to institutional determinations that they have engaged in plagiarism or cheating. It examines the scope and amount of judicial deference in reviewing institutional judgments that a student has violated an academic integrity policy, analyzes the amount of due process and compliance with institutional policies required by courts, and discusses courts’ responses to student claims that their conduct was uninformed or unintentional. The article then provides recommendations for institutional action to minimize student academic misconduct.