Academic Grievances

Students may seek redress of various grievances within the University through the agencies and procedures described under this heading. The Associate Dean of Students is available to discuss with students the nature of their grievances and to advise them on the recourse open to them.

Redress of Academic Grievances

An undergraduate (or group of undergraduates) with a complaint arising out of any course should bring the complaint first to the instructor of the course in which the grievance occurred. If, after meeting with the instructor, the student feels that satisfaction has not been received, the complaint should then be taken to the instructor’s immediate superior, and so on up the line, from the instructor of a section to the faculty member in charge of all sections of the course, the department chairperson, and the dean of the college.

If the student (or group of students) believes the grievance should not go to the instructor, he or she should take it to the instructor’s immediate superior. In case of doubt as to whom to bring the grievance, the student should consult the dean of the college or the Dean of Students Office.

A graduate student (or group of students) with a complaint arising out of any course or research activity should bring the complaint first to the responsible faculty member. If, after meeting with the faculty member, the student wishes to pursue the matter further, the complaint should then be taken to the department chairperson, and the dean of the college.

If the student (or group of students) believes the grievance should not go to the faculty member, he or she should take it to the department chairperson. In case of doubt as to whom to bring the grievance, the student should consult the dean of the college, the Dean of Students office or the University Ombudsperson.

Right of Appeal of Academic Grievances

A student failing to gain satisfaction in the manner described above may appeal by petition to the Committee on Standing of Students or for graduate students, the Committee on Standing of Graduate Students.

In general, a student has the privilege of petition about any academic matter of concern to him or her in the University. Petition forms are available in the Associate Dean of Students office, the dean’s offices and Registration & Academic Services.