

Academic Honesty Reflective Questions

Considering the inherent power imbalance and associated unconscious biases involved in situations of academic dishonesty, and in support of York University's Decolonizing, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (DEDI) strategy, the following questions should be reflected upon when issuing recommendations or decisions. These questions may also be applied to appeals of academic decisions, where relevant.

When Considering a Penalty Recommendation

Audience: Graduate Program Directors, with involvement from Course Directors/Graduate Supervisors, as appropriate

1. Lived/living experiences are individual – have these been considered with assumptions based on monolithic understandings/stereotypes, resources, abilities and contexts?
2. Consider case review/study as a promising practice – does removing/changing identifying features adjust any of your decisions?
3. Have deadlines, access (to information, technology, support staff, etc.), that can affect different populations/individuals been considered?
4. Was the language used in the assignment/task/activity/forms/etc. clear, comprehensible and easily understood by diverse audiences?
5. Has the rationale for the penalty recommendation been informed by these considerations, and is it expressed clearly to ensure a variety of individuals understand the determination that was made?

When Considering a Penalty Decision

Audience: Appeals and Academic Honesty Committee (AAHC)

1. Lived/living experiences are individual – have these been considered with assumptions based on monolithic understandings/stereotypes, resources, abilities and contexts??
2. Consider case review/study as a promising practice – does removing/changing identifying features adjust any of your decisions?
3. Have deadlines, access (to information, technology, support staff, etc.), that can affect different populations/individuals been considered?
4. Was the language used in the assignment/task/activity/forms/etc. clear, comprehensible and easily understood by diverse audiences?
5. Has the rationale for the penalty decision been informed by these considerations, and has appropriate consideration been given to balancing university norms and expectations to the experiences of a diversity of individuals?

Contact: Graduate Academic Affairs Assistant, Faculty of Graduate Studies – gsaahc@yorku.ca