

## **Computer Science Department Policy on Academic Honesty**

As stated in the campus wide Academic Honesty Policy (AHP)<sup>1</sup>, "*academic integrity is the foundation of an academic community*". Accordingly, the CSE faculty takes this matter very seriously and has embraced a zero tolerance on this matter. The process described in the following establishes the minimum consequences for violations of the AHP in CSE courses, but repercussions may be more severe for egregious violations.

The Computer Science Department Policy on Academic Honesty ("CSE Policy" from now onwards), does not substitute the AHP, but rather specifies how it will be implemented when students enrolled in classes offered by the Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) department<sup>2</sup> are found in violation of the AHP. In particular, the CSE Policy defines how the CSE faculty implements the "Instructor-Led Process" described in AHP 802.00.A.

This policy and the associated processes have been developed in collaboration with the Office of Student Conduct and the School of Engineering, and is jointly implemented by the CSE Faculty, the School of Engineering, and the Office of Student Conduct.

The CSE Policy becomes effective starting from the Fall 2019 term.

### **Preamble**

Computer science education relies on a variety of methods to assess students' preparation and learning. The term "assignment" shall be interpreted as any method or process resulting in a grade or contributing to the final grade for a class. Accordingly, the term "assignment" used in the following includes, but is not limited to: homeworks, quizzes, in-class exams, take-home exams, programming assignments, software projects, and presentations.

### **Shared Responsibility**

Maintaining an environment where academic integrity is valued and enforced requires commitments by both instructors and students. Instructors will clearly specify what type of collaboration is allowed or disallowed for a given assignment, and students should strictly follow the provided guidelines. When in doubt, students should contact the instructor and ask for clarifications.

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[http://studentconduct.ucmerced.edu/sites/studentconduct.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/academic\\_honesty\\_-\\_800.pdf](http://studentconduct.ucmerced.edu/sites/studentconduct.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/academic_honesty_-_800.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> These include all CSExxx classes, irrespective of the departmental affiliation of the instructor.

## **First Infraction**

If it is determined that a student has cheated, plagiarized, or otherwise violated the AHP, the student will receive a 0 (or equivalent grade) for the assignment. As per the AHP, violations will be reported to the Dean of the School of Engineering and to the Office of Student Conduct for review of possible violations of the Code of Student Conduct.

## **Additional Infractions**

The School of Engineering keeps a record of all infractions reported by its faculty. If upon receiving a notification it is determined that the student has one or more prior violations of the AHP, the School will inform the instructor who reported the new violation. The additional violation will immediately lead to a failing grade (F) for the course. The student will be informed in writing and will not be allowed to withdraw from the class. According to CSE Policy, students should note that even the first infraction in a class may lead to a failing grade if after reporting it is determined that the student had been previously sanctioned for one or more infractions in other classes. Students will have the right to appeal the instructor's decision as per AHP 802.00.A.

## **Resources**

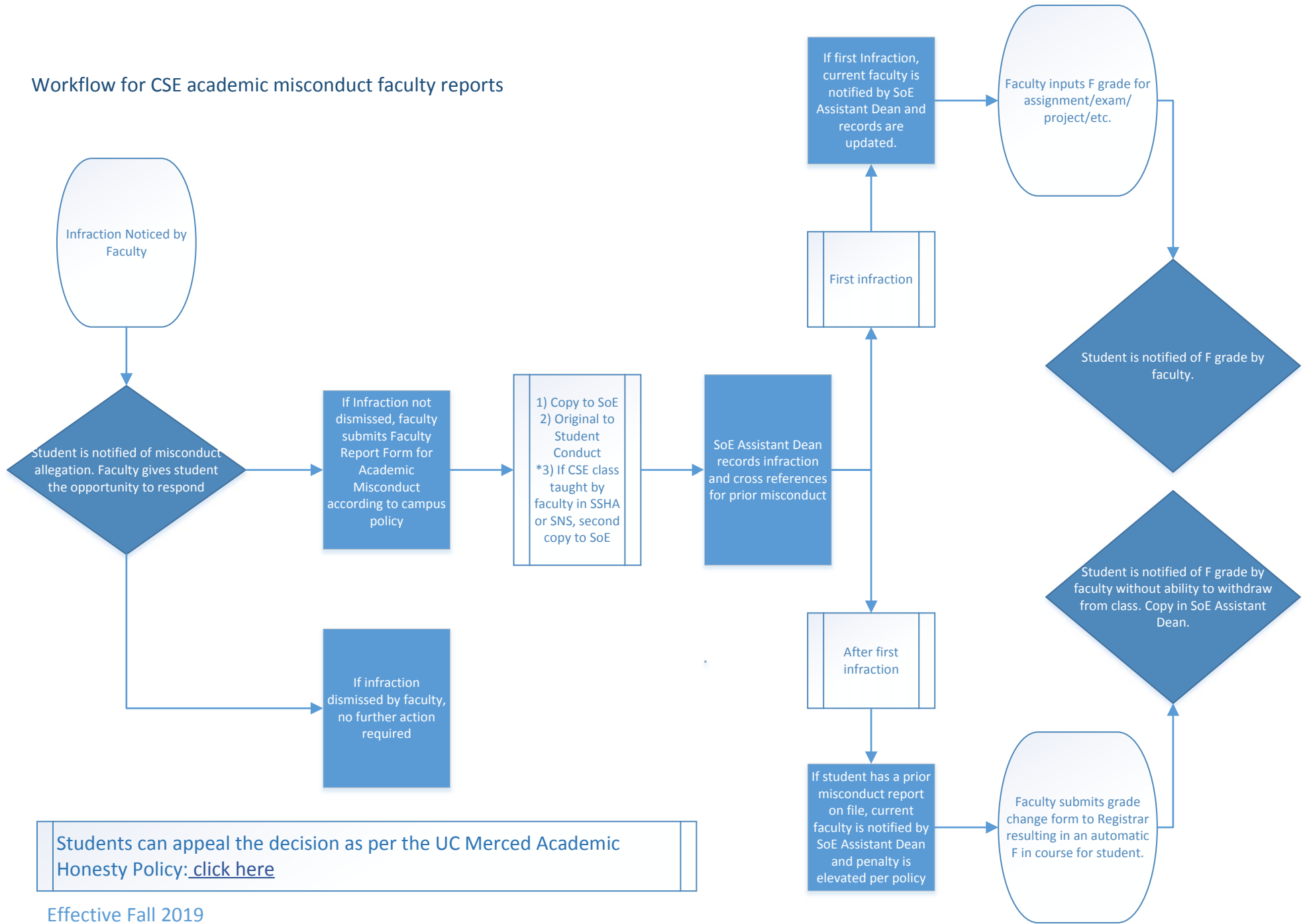
If in doubt, students are encouraged to seek guidance from the faculty, advisors, and the Office of Student Conduct. Additional resources can be found on:

<http://studentconduct.ucmerced.edu/>

<https://ombuds.ucmerced.edu/>

[https://eecs.ucmerced.edu/sites/eecs.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/computer\\_science\\_department\\_policy\\_on\\_academic\\_honesty\\_fall\\_2019.pdf](https://eecs.ucmerced.edu/sites/eecs.ucmerced.edu/files/page/documents/computer_science_department_policy_on_academic_honesty_fall_2019.pdf)

## Workflow for CSE academic misconduct faculty reports



Students can appeal the decision as per the UC Merced Academic Honesty Policy: [click here](#)

Effective Fall 2019

See full Policy [HERE](#)