
COS/OAC 2018-2019 Annual Report



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Introduction

The Committee on Standards (COS) is charged with upholding Dartmouth College's [Standards of Conduct](#) and the [Academic Honor Principle](#) (AHP) for undergraduate students and student organizations.

This report is intended to:

- Share a broad overview of undergraduate conduct at the College from Summer 2018 - Spring 2019;
- Promote transparency of and knowledge about our systems of holding undergraduate students and student organizations accountable; and,
- Engage the community in the prevention of conduct that harms or has the potential to harm individuals, our learning community, and the integrity of the degrees that we award.

Respect for Privacy

This report is publicly available; families, alumni, and other stakeholders are vested in the well-being and success of undergraduate students, have interest in this data, and may influence choices of undergraduate students.

Our investment in the transparency of our process does not eclipse our regard for the privacy of the individuals involved. The data in this report is purposefully presented in the aggregate. This report is not intended as a forum for discussion of individual cases and we discourage speculation about the identity of the students who met with the committees or with a hearing officer.

Conduct Process

When a report is forwarded to Judicial Affairs¹ about student conduct that, if true, would be a violation of our standards, we consider the conduct history of the student, the type of behavior alleged, and the harm or threat of harm that may have occurred in deciding the appropriate mode of investigation and/or resolution. Possibilities include:

- A referral to the Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) or other intervention recommended by Dartmouth's Alcohol and Other Drug Program (DAODAP) for first violations of the alcohol policy and most Good Samaritan calls.
- An administrative level hearing with a designated hearing officer for minor misconduct. Outcomes can include restitution, educational or community restoration efforts, completion of a substance use or other medical assessment, Warning, Reprimand, or a period of College Probation.
- A COS hearing for more serious misconduct or where there is a history of repeated misconduct. Examples of misconduct referred to the COS include violations of the Academic Honor Principle, dating violence, stalking, harassment, driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs, trafficking or distribution of drugs, service of hard alcohol, physical assaults, arson, and bomb threats. The COS can impose any of the outcomes described above. They can also Suspend or Separate (expel) an undergraduate student from the College.

¹ As of September 1, 2019, the Office of Judicial Affairs was renamed the Office of Community Standards & Accountability.

- Following an investigation and determination of responsibility made by a qualified investigator, a sanctioning panel determines sanctions in sexual assault situations².

As per our memo of understanding with the Hanover Police Department, the Department of Safety & Security must also report certain allegations to local police. Reports of drug trafficking, confiscated drugs, false identification cards, aggravated assault, reports of sexual assault involving a minor, reports involving use of a weapon, arson, burglary, robbery, theft (value greater than \$1,000), fraud, domestic violence, and homicide must be reported. The College also forwards reports of sexual assault, which may be anonymized at the request of the reporting person, if no minors are involved.

Other COS Functions

The Committee on Standards also acts as the appellate body for academic suspensions and separations and for certain registrarial appeals.

When an undergraduate student has been suspended or separated for unsatisfactory academic progress³, they can request that a subcommittee of the COS consisting of two faculty and one staff member review that action. In a request for review, the student may ask for the action to be converted to Academic Probation (or Suspension if the action was Separation) or, in rare cases, to take a Medical Withdrawal in lieu of the action. The COS considers evidence of significant extenuating circumstances which would warrant a different action. Students requesting review of an academic action are encouraged to address their efforts throughout the term to respond to these circumstances, evaluate their academic effort and attendance throughout the term, and explain what other decisions they considered (i.e. withdrawal from the course or term).

A subcommittee of the COS consisting of one student, one faculty, and one staff member can hear appeals of certain registrarial decisions and actions. Such appeals are infrequent. The COS considers if there is new information that wasn't reasonably available to the student at the time of the original decision and/or if there was a procedural error that prejudiced the original decision. Examples of the types of decisions that can be appealed to the COS are late additions or withdrawals from a course, request for exemption of the sophomore summer residency requirement, and requests for partial exemption from the senior year requirement.

Family Notification

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the Office of Judicial Affairs provided notice to parents and/or guardians if a student was responding to COS level allegations, when a COS case was resolved, and when an administrative hearing resulted in a serious outcome involving alcohol. Parents and guardians may have been contacted by a staff member, usually an undergraduate dean, in a health or safety emergency, such as in situations where the College was aware of admission to the hospital or if a student were arrested and transported to the local county jail.

² This report reflects cases that were resolved between June 16, 2018, and June 15, 2019, under the Unified Disciplinary Procedures (UDP). The Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct Policy (SMP) was adopted September 1, 2019.

³ Academic Progress requirements are described here: <http://student-affairs.dartmouth.edu/policy/academic-regulations-and-actions>

Academic Actions

This academic year, 35 students petitioned for review of an academic suspension or separation from the College. The COS approved 74% of these petitions either allowing the student to continue on Academic Probation with a defined academic recovery plan or to take a medical withdrawal in lieu of a suspension or separation.

Registrarial Appeals

The COS heard four Registrarial Appeals during the 2018-2019 academic year. The COS upheld the decision of the Registrar in three of the cases. One of the appeals, the COS did not grant the appeal, but tabled the decision as there were on-going conversations among stakeholders. The Registrar eventually reviewed and granted the request.

Overview of Academic Honor Principle and Conduct Cases

During the 2018-2019 academic year, 58 major misconduct cases were referred to the Committee on Standards (COS) for resolution and/or sanctioning. Major misconduct includes any type of case in which Suspension or Separation (i.e. expulsion) from the College are possible outcomes.

Figure 1 shows the number of cases by type for the past 10 years. Prior to the Summer 2014 term, all Title IX cases would have been referred to the COS. The COS still resolves allegations of violations of Dartmouth's *Sexual Harassment, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking Policy*. However, at the beginning of the 2014-2015 Academic year, the College adopted a disciplinary procedure in which allegations of sexual assault are referred to an Independent Investigator for investigation and resolution.⁴ To reflect this change, the third category of cases labeled "Title IX" begins with the 2014-2015 academic year.

⁴ <http://www.dartmouth.edu/sexualrespect/policies/unified-sexual-assault-policy.html>

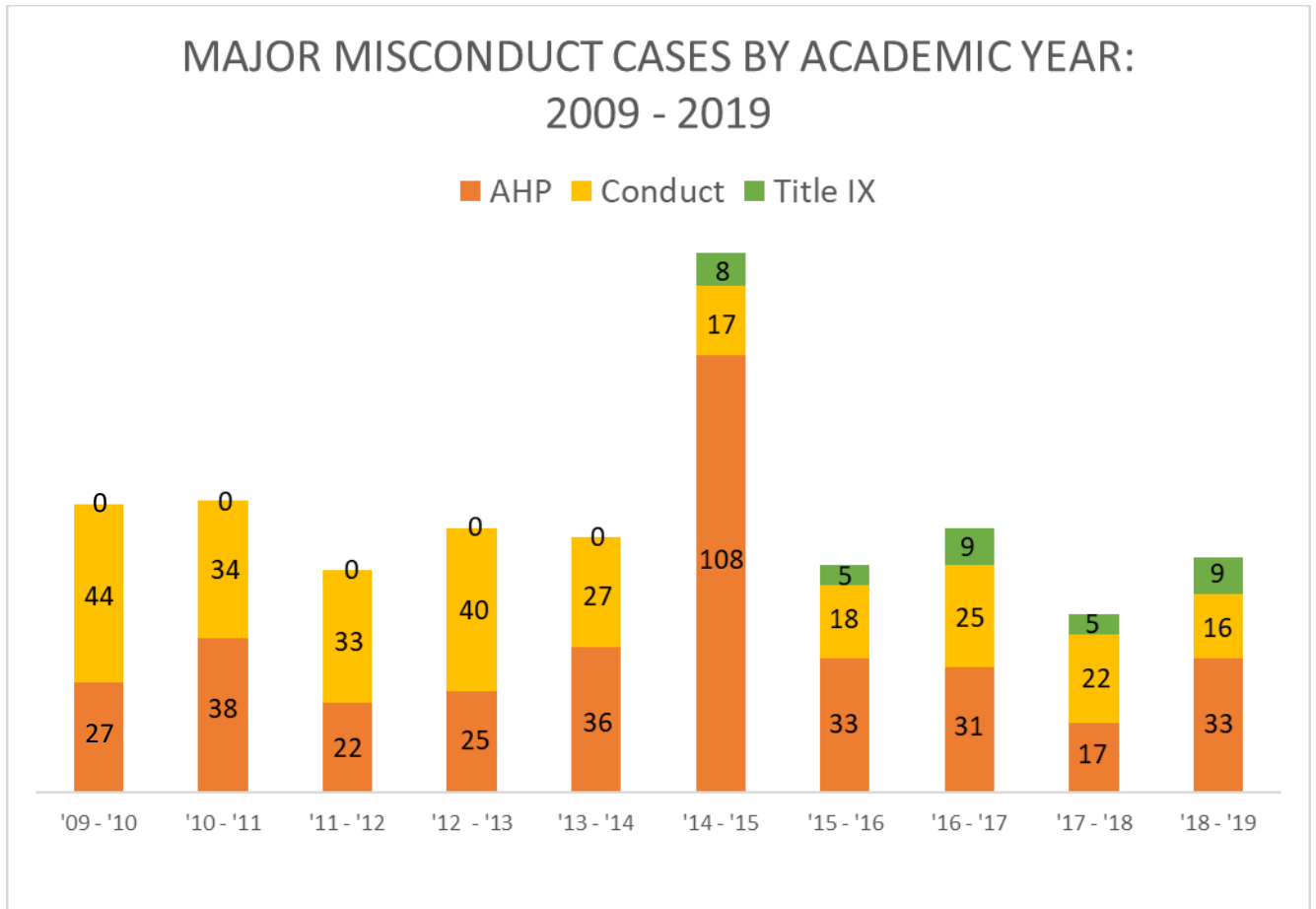


Figure 1

In 2014-2015, 64 students were alleged with Academic Honor Principle violations in the same course. When those students are factored out of the data, the 10-year average for Academic Honor Principle cases is 31 and the average for other cases (including conduct and Title IX) is 31. This year, Honor Principle cases and other conduct cases made up 33 and 25 cases respectively.

We see an overall decrease in the average number of cases. The average number of cases referred to the COS in the first half of this decade was 65. In the past five years, the average has decreased to 58 (when the large case from 2014-2015 is excluded).

All except three cases were resolved by a COS hearing. These three cases resulted in an educational conversation only.

Academic Honor Principle

During the 2018-2019 academic year, 33 students were involved in COS hearings due to alleged violations of the Academic Honor Principle. Of these students, 24 (73%) admitted responsibility for the violation prior to their hearing. Students who admit responsibility may request to have their case heard in a one-on-one hearing by a COS Chair rather than a full Committee. 19 of the students who admitted requested a one-on-one hearing.

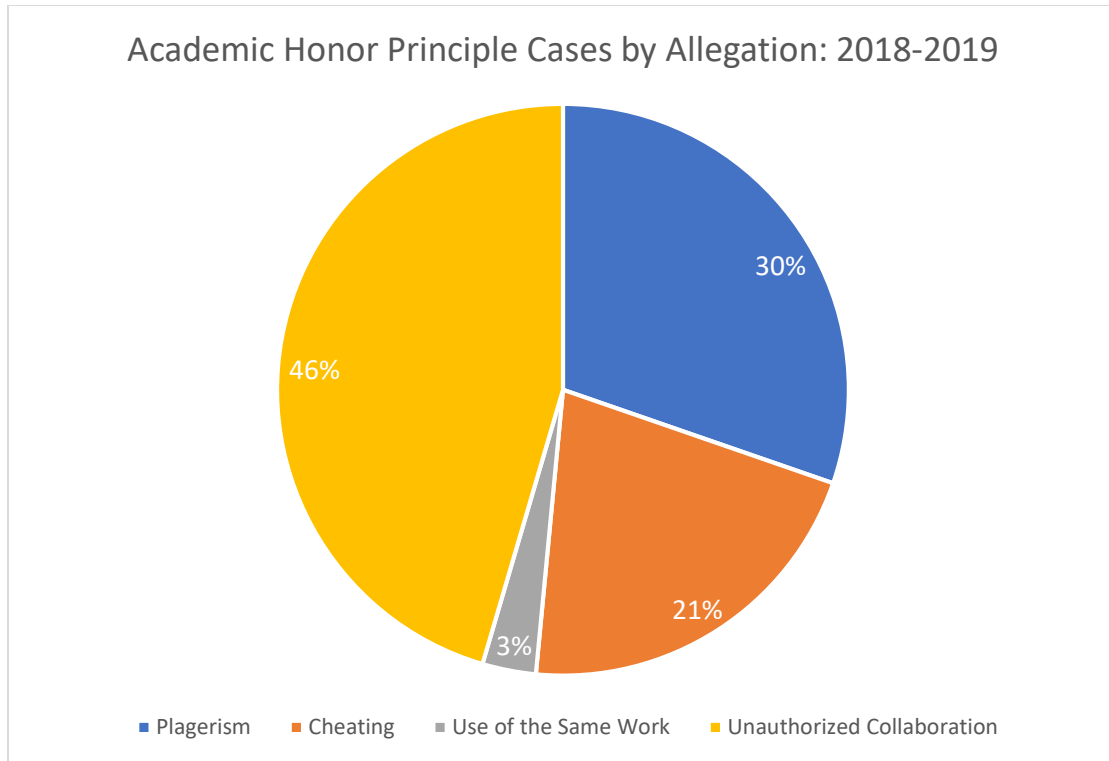


Figure 2

Nine students denied responsibility; three were issued educational resolutions as there was insufficient evidence to present a case and six were automatically referred to a COS Committee. Five of the six students were found responsible for a violation.

Of the students who were found responsible (including those who admitted responsibility prior to their hearing), eight students were placed on College Probation and 21 students (72%) were suspended for some number of terms. Suspensions ranged from 1-5 terms with 31% of responsible students being suspended for between 2-3 terms.

Types of Violations (AHP)

This year, violations of the Academic Honor Principle broadly fell into four categories: cheating on a test or exam (21%), unauthorized collaboration (46%), use of the same work in more than one course (3%), and plagiarism (30%).

COS-Level Conduct Cases

Figure 1 indicates that 16 students were alleged to have engaged in conduct violations at the COS level. Students who are responding to conduct violation allegations at the COS-Level are often alleged to have engaged in more than one violation, and Figure 3 categorizes the cases by choosing the primary allegation, if there was more than one.

Four students denied at least one of the alleged violations of the Standards of Conduct prior to their hearing; 12 students admitted to all the allegations made against them.

One student who denied responsibility was found not responsible by the COS. All other students were found responsible for one or more violations of the Standards of Conduct and sanctioned accordingly.

Of the students found responsible, one was separated from the college, and six were placed on probation. Eight students were suspended for a period ranging from 1- 6 terms, with 75% being suspended for 1-3 terms and 25% being suspended for four or more terms.

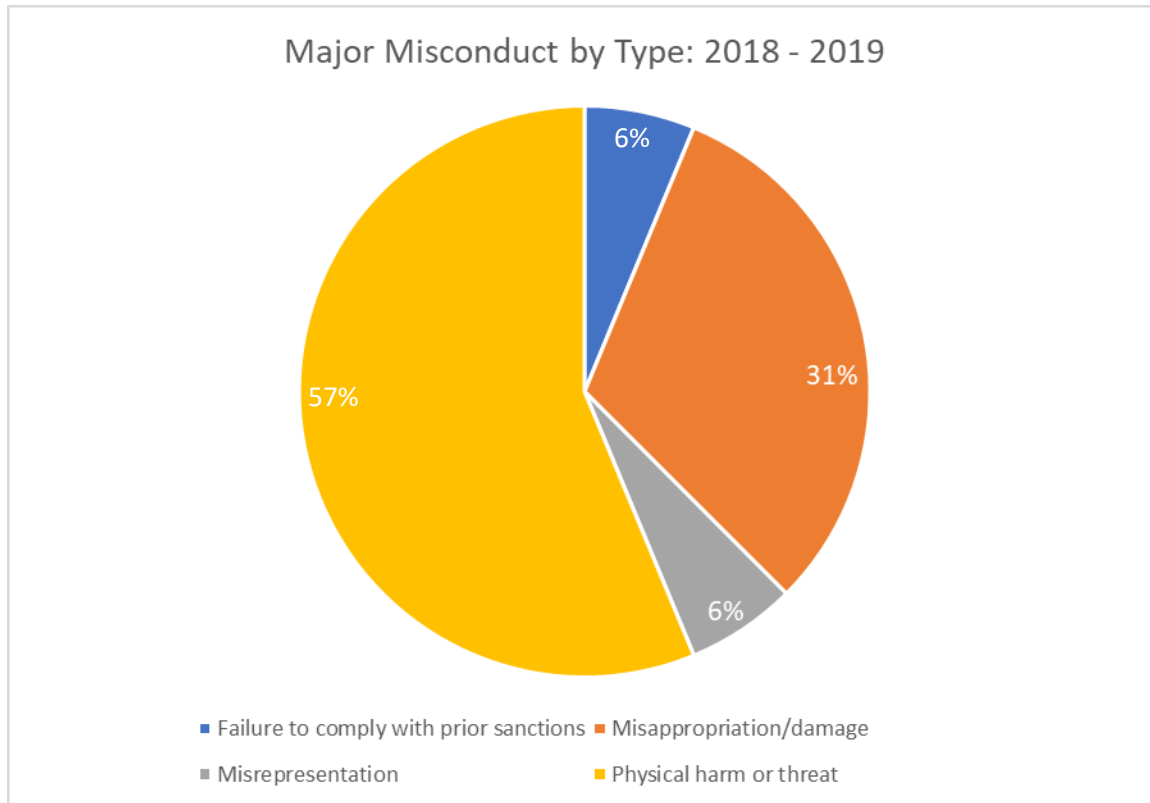


Figure 3

Title IX Cases

As reported in the historical overview (Figure 1), nine cases involved allegations of violations of Standard III and were processed under the *Unified Disciplinary Procedures for Sexual Assault*.

Sexual Assault Investigations

The *Unified Disciplinary Procedures for Sexual Assault* applied to investigations conducted on or after June 18, 2014, through September 1, 2019. This academic year, nine cases were referred to an Independent Investigator.

In five cases, the Independent Investigator concluded by a preponderance of the evidence that the responding student was responsible for violating the Sexual Assault Policy. Three students were suspended and two students were separated.

In four cases, the Independent Investigator concluded by a preponderance of the evidence that the responding student was not responsible. This ended the investigation into the reported incident.

Although the College cannot permanently remove someone from the campus without a disciplinary process, the Title IX Office may offer interim measures to reporting students including housing adjustments, academic accommodations, and No Contact Orders etc. prior to the conclusion of the disciplinary process. At the end of the disciplinary process, some interim measures may become permanent regardless of the findings in the individual case.

Organizational Misconduct

At their best, student organizations present avenues for students to develop leadership skills, explore shared interests, and enrich our campus culture. As stated in the Group Accountability Policy⁵, the conduct of individuals functioning as members or leaders of a student organization may have consequences for that organization. The most commonly heard organizational allegations are service of alcohol to underage students and other violations of the Alcohol Management Procedures.

The organizational conduct process mirrors the undergraduate student conduct process. Cases which could result in suspension or de-recognition are heard by the Organizational Adjudication Committee (OAC) while cases that would result in a lower sanction (including probation or alcohol probation) are resolved through administrative hearings.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, there were 17 cases involving organizations. All these cases were resolved through the normal College process. 16 of the cases were administrative hearings and one was heard by the OAC. All the cases involved Greek-letter organizations or undergraduate societies with a physical plant. Of the 17 hearings, nine (53%) resulted in a finding of responsibility, eight (47%) resulted in findings of not responsible.

Organizational Conduct by Allegations and Findings		
Policy Violation	Frequency of Allegations	Findings of Responsibility
Underage Distribution	8	38%
Common Source	4	50%
Hard Alcohol	3	67%
Other Alcohol Policy: AMP	2	100%
Failure to Comply: Directions	2	50%
Fire Safety Policy	2	50%

Figure 4

In 15 cases, the organization was alleged to have violated the College's Alcohol Policy. Figure 4 shows the frequency of each allegation received by an organization. The number of allegations is greater than the number of cases because some organizations received allegations for multiple violations of a policy in a single case.

⁵ The Group Accountability Statement (<https://students.dartmouth.edu/student-life/policy/group-accountability-statement>) presents the College's position on the responsibility for the conduct of officers and members of undergraduate student organizations. Newly elected presidents are encouraged to speak with their advisor or Judicial Affairs to learn if their organization has a recent history of misconduct.

Figure 5 lists the frequency of sanctions organizations received during the 2018-2019 academic year. Organizations are often given a certain number of terms of suspension or Alcohol Probation followed by a period of College Probation. As such, the number of sanctions is greater than the number of findings of responsibility.

As specified in the Hard Alcohol Policy, the first incident of an organization serving hard alcohol will result in one term of suspension. One organization was found responsible for violating the terms of a previous sanction and was suspended and placed on College Probation following that suspension⁶.

Organizational Conduct Case Sanctions	
Sanction	Frequency of Sanction
Org. College Warning	3
Org. College Reprimand	3
Org. College Probation	1
Alcohol Probation	2
Organizational Suspension	1
Fine	1

Figure 5

The Judicial Affairs Office shared organizational conduct histories with incoming Greek leadership in the spring of 2019. Additionally, organizations were reminded they are responsible for what occurs within their physical plant. This includes signs or other stolen items found in an organization’s common areas. Greek leaders were encouraged to communicate to alumni that bringing hard alcohol or other banned items into a house puts the organization at risk of judicial sanctions even if the current students are not the source of the policy violation.

Administrative Hearings and Educational Referrals

Violations of the *Standards of Conduct* which do not reach the threshold for a suspension-level hearing are resolved through an administrative hearing. Administrative hearings are conducted by designated Hearing Officers which include Judicial Affairs staff and Assistant Directors from Residential Education. Assistant Directors primarily hear cases involving conduct that occurred within residence halls.

If a Good Samaritan call is placed for a student, the student is expected to complete the Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) and does not receive any conduct sanctions if other College policies were not also violated. Students who violate the alcohol policy for the first time are also given the same opportunity.

Alleged violations of the alcohol policy made up 58% of administrative hearings. Any student found to have violated the Alcohol and Other Drug Policy is required to complete BASICS as part of their sanction.

In total, there were 459 administrative-level conduct cases this academic year. The allegations used most frequently are shown in Figure 5. “Other College Policies” include some Residential Education Policies (such as room care policies) and any policy violation that was alleged less than 5 times in the past year.

⁶ These sanctions were not enacted; the National organization derecognized the chapter before the sanctions could be put into effect.

Students may receive more than one allegation in each case. Therefore, the total number of allegations is greater than the number of cases. The percentages are rounded and reflect the percentage of total allegations across all categories.

The number of cases at this level was lower during the 2018-2019 academic year than the previous year (from 553 to 459).

First-year students typically make up a large percentage of administrative cases and this year was no different with 203 cases (44% of all cases).

Sanctions for administrative hearings range from a College Warning to College Probation.

Educational only outcomes are largely referrals to BASICS for non-conduct alcohol violations (Good Samaritan calls and first-time alcohol violations without any other policy violations, 42% combined). The outcomes for these hearings are shown in Figure 7.

Administrative Hearings & Educational Resolutions: Number of Allegations	
Alcohol Policy	384 (53%)
Hard Alcohol Policy	19
Good Sam for Alcohol	158
Disorderly Conduct	31 (4%)
Fire Safety & Smoking Policies	55 (8%)
Drug Policy	23 (3%)
Good Sam for Drug Use	8
Unauthorized Entry	34 (5%)
Swim Policy	7 (1%)
Fake ID	13(2%)
Failure to Comply	14 (2%)
Misrepresentation	11 (2%)
Misappropriation/Damage	30 (4%)
Guest and Visitors Policy	55 (8%)
Other College Policies	62 (8%)

Figure 6

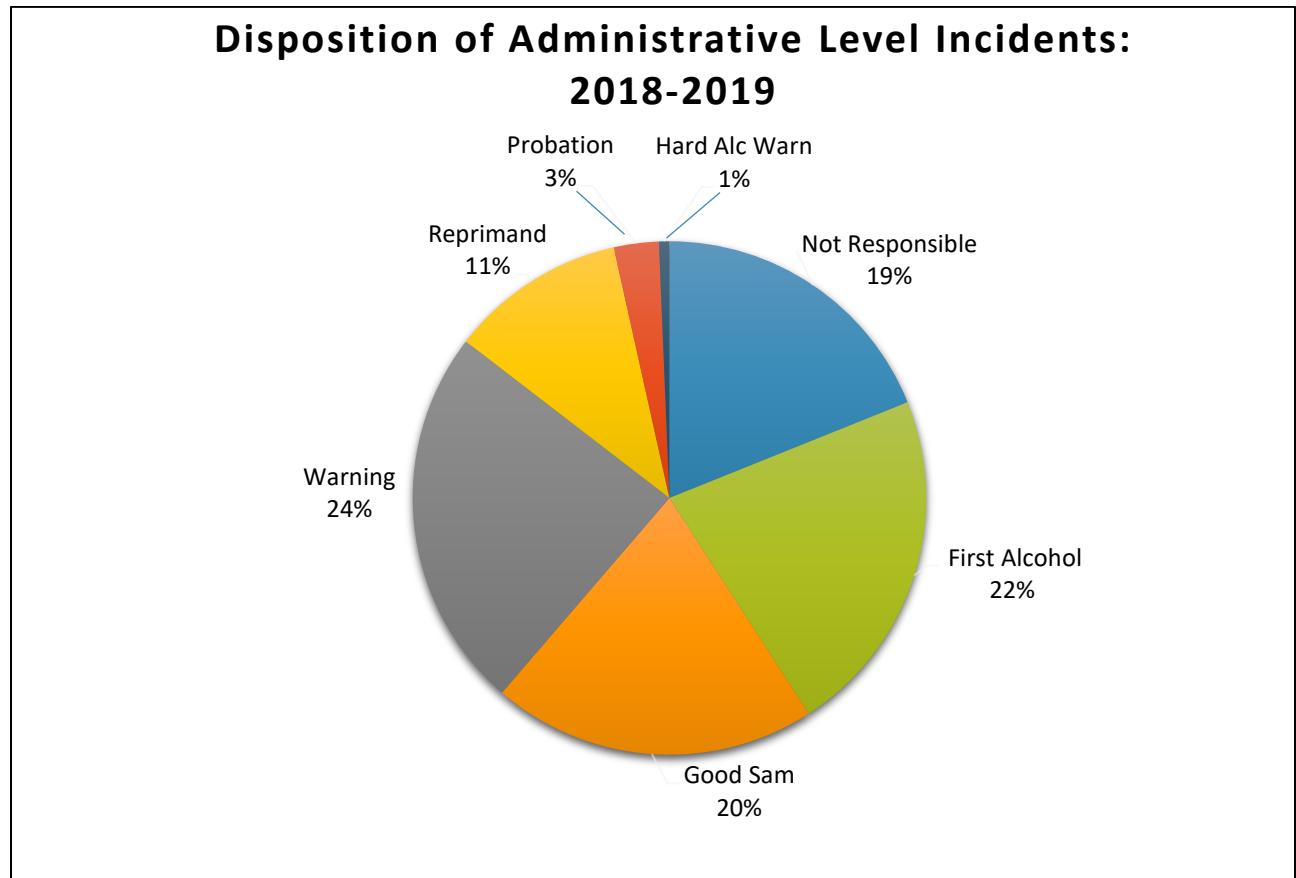


Figure 7

Acknowledgement

Members of the Committee on Standards are Dartmouth students, faculty, and staff who represent our community by election or appointment. We wish to thank our graduating seniors and faculty whose terms of service are complete.

Feedback

This report aimed to:

- Share a broad overview of undergraduate conduct at the College from Summer 2018 - Spring 2019;
- Promote transparency in and knowledge about our systems of holding undergraduate students and student organizations accountable; and,
- Engage the community in the prevention of conduct that harms or has the potential to harm individuals, our learning community, and the integrity of the degrees that we award.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions via e-mail to Community.Standards@Dartmouth.edu. In your email, please let us know if you are a current student, parent/guardian, alum, faculty, or staff member and how future reports can better meet the described objectives.