



ACCT 3307 - 120 Writing for Accountants (81214)

Spring 2022

Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COURSE DATES, MODALITY, AND LOCATION

Course Dates: 18 Jan 22 – 13 May 22

Mode of instruction and course access: This course meets online, with supplemental materials made available online through the A&M-Central Texas Canvas Learning Management System [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>].

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Anthony L. Fulmore, MSA, MS-HRM, DBA, Ph. D

Office: Founder's Hall room 323

Phone: **Office** (254)501-5840
Cell (254)383-0226 (text only)

Email: afulmore@tamuct.edu (preferred email)

Office Hours: Office hours are online and by appointment only.

Student-instructor interaction

I am accessible through Canvas Inbox, which I check several times a day during the week and usually once a day on weekends. I will attempt to respond within 24 hours during the week and within 36 hours during the weekend. You may use my TAMUCT email for course-related matters. In the subject line of your email provide the course information **“ACCT 3307”**. If your concern needs immediate attention, text me. Remember, practice good communication skills (spelling and grammar).

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

SAFEZONE. SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the [SafeZone](http://www.safezoneapp.com) website [www.safezoneapp.com].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:
 - o [iPhone/iPad](https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756): [<https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756>]

- [Android Phone / Tablet](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp)
[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp]
2. Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)

Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Overview and Description

Learn how to improve communication skills for those entering the accounting profession. Written communications, including letter-writing, memos, emails, reports, employment resumes, and writing for publication. This course provides particular emphasis on the organization of thought, critical thinking, and accounting research (**Writing Intensive Course**).

Course Objective

Your achievement level for each objective will be measured by your success in completing the assignments and exams. The successful student, upon completion of this course, will be expected to have achieved the following in this course:

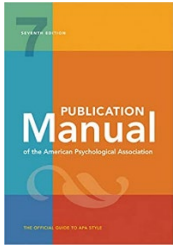
- Identify the various accounting standard-setting bodies and their respective roles in the standard-setting process
- Describe the conceptual framework for financial reporting
- Apply basic accounting terminology
- Apply generally accepted accounting principles to business transactions
- Demonstrate the accounting cycle from analyzing and recording transactions through preparing financial statements

Required Reading and Textbook(s)

1. Effective Writing: A Handbook for Accountants, 11th edition, Prentice-Hall: Saddleback, NJ, ISBN: 9780134667386



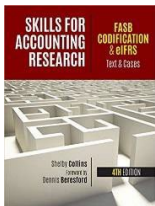
2. Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition American Psychological Association Softcover, ISBN-13 978-1433805615



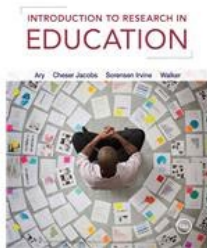
3. A Sequence for Academic Writing, Pearson; 7 edition (January 21, 2017), ISBN 9780134398501



4. Skills for Accounting Research FASB Codification & eIFRS Text & Cases, ISBN 9781618533159



5. Ary, D., Jacobs, L. C., Sorenson, C. K., & Walker, D. (2019). Introduction to Research in Education (10th ed.). Boston: Cengage Learning



6. Bradberry, T., Greaves, J., & Lencioni, P. (2009). *Emotional intelligence 2.0*.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be a variety of graded and non-graded activities throughout the semester. Each activity will assess your command of the material as well as your understanding of the course goals and concepts. Activities are assigned and completed during the class period unless otherwise noted and cannot be turned in late or if classes are missed.

- **Case Studies (Individual)**: Several written case studies will be completed during the course.
- **Class Discussions**: Each student is expected to demonstrate his or her mastery of the covered material by responding to questions in class and offering substantive feedback.
- **Research Project – Interpreting Financial Statements or VITA (12 hours)**: The purpose of this assignment is to employ accounting principles and relevant business practices to evaluate a company's performance and financial position through a comparison to industry data.

This will serve as the structure for your assignment. Begin by choosing two competing publicly traded companies from the list below.

1. Coca-Cola and PepsiCo
2. Home Depot and Lowe's
3. Walmart and Target
4. Nike and Adidas

Review the competing companies' ratios provided at the MSN Money website <https://www.msn.com/en-us/money> For the pair of companies selected; you will need to use each company's stock symbol to locate the liquidity, solvency, and profitability ratios on the MSN Money website. As part of your research, you will need to identify each company's stock symbols before accessing the website, as this information will not be provided to you.

Once you know each company's stock symbol, begin by entering the appropriate company symbol in the "Quote Search" search box on the MSN Money website. Under the "Analysis" heading, use the Growth, Profitability, Price Ratios, Financial Health, Trading Statistics, and Management Effectiveness information to complete a 500 - 650 word comparison addressing the following:

1. Evaluate each company's liquidity relative to its competitor, then compare both companies to the industry averages.
2. Evaluate each company's solvency relative to its competitor, then compare both companies to the industry averages.

3. Evaluate each company's profitability relative to its competitor, then compare both companies to the industry averages.

OR

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) initiative founded in 1971 to serve low- to moderate-income individuals, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and limited English speakers.

Anyone who has income generated in the U. S. must file an income tax return to be in compliance with U.S. tax laws. Yet many of these earners, even those with college degrees, throw up their hands in bewilderment when trying to decipher the ever-changing laws with which they must comply.

“The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax.”

~ *Albert Einstein, physicist*

Einstein said this to his own accountant! As an accounting major, you have proven your aptitude for unraveling something that stumped even Einstein! Thus, our VITA program provides a critical service to the TAMU-CT community through your unique talent. VITA at TAMU-CT saves not only low-income and military members of our community from the daunting and often expensive task of tax return preparation.

VITA provides a meaningful, valuable service to the TAMU-CT community. As a student, you will find this experience to provide immeasurable value to you, as well. One of the essential parts of the learning process is applying one's trade. While preparing tax returns, you will research clients' issues, resolve questions, and navigate challenging tax scenarios. You will gain first-hand experience working with actual clients' real problems. However, the technical learning you will gain is only part of the picture. I guarantee you will not forget the gratitude of your clients, the satisfaction of knowing your unique talents enriched their lives, as well as the pride of representing and serving a community that has contributed so much to your own growth.

Requirements:

- Complete the required IRS Training
 - Volunteer Standards of Conduct Training certificate
 - Intake/Interview and Quality Review Exam certificate
 - Basic Training Exam Certificate
 - Advance Training Exam Certificate
- Submit certificates in Canvas and email to the designated email address.
- Volunteer **12 hours** (Spring semester – starting 25 January – 15 April) to the VITA program.

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion:

Students earn their course grades by completing scheduled assignments; no extra credit assignments are given. To satisfactorily pass this course, students must complete each of the graded items listed below. Failure to submit appropriate documents for scoring in each category will result in a failing grade.

Course Element		Percent of Course Grade	
Case Studies - Individual			50%
Accounting Research Project or VITA			40%
Class Discussion			10%
		Total	100%
Grade Equivalents:			
If Grade is Computed Numerically		If Grade is Computed by Letter	
90.0 - 100 %		= A	
80.0 - 89.9%	= B	B =	95%
70.0 - 79.9%	= C	C =	85%
60.0 - 69.9%	= D	D =	75%
0 - 59.9%	= F	F =	65%

Posting of Grades

Grades will be posted on the Canvas Grade book (turn-around time for grades to be posted is 7 days).

COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR Complete Course Calendar

Week	Date	Readings Assignments
1	18-Jan	May - Chapter 1 - Accountants as Communicators & Chapter 2 - The Writing Process: An Overview
		Behrens - Chapter - 1- An Introduction to Thinking and Writing in College
		Ary - Chapter 1 - The Nature of Research in Education
		Collins - Chapter 1 - Overview of Accounting Research
2	25-Jan	
3	1-Feb	May - Chapter 8 - Accounting Research
		Behrens -
		Ary -

		Collins - Chapter 2 - The FASB Codification: Introduction and Search Strategies
4	8-Feb	May -
		Ary -
		Behrens - Chapter 2 - Reading with Attention & Chapter 9 - Writing as a Process
		Collins - Chapter 3- The Research Process
5	15-Feb	May - Chapter 3 - Coherent Writing: Organizing Business Documents
		Ary -
		Behrens -
		Collins - Chapter 4 - Creating Effective Documentation
6	22-Feb	May - Chapter 4 - A Sense of Style: Writing with Conciseness and Clarity & Chapter 5 - Standard English: Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling
		Ary - Reviewing the Literature
		Behrens -
		Collins - Chapter 5 Using Nonauthoritative Sources to Supplement Codification Research
7	1-Mar	May -
		Ary -
		Behren - Chapter 3 - Summarizing and Paraphrasing Sources, Chapter 4 - Quoting Sources, Using Signal Phrases, and Making Standard 'Moves', & Chapter 10 - Locating, Mining, and Citing Sources
		Collins -
		May - Chapter 6 - Format for Clarity: Document Design & Chapter 7 - Thinking on The Job: Higher Order Thinking Skills
8	8-Mar	Ary -
		Behrens - Chapter 5 - Critical Reading and Critique & Chapter 6 - Explanatory Synthesis
		Collins - Chapter 6 - Scope and Recognition Guidance: A Brief Introduction
9	15-Mar	Spring break
10	22-Mar	May - Chapter 9 - Letters & Chapter 10 - Memos and Briefing Documents
		Ary -
		Behrens - Chapter 7 - Argument Synthesis & Chapter 8 - Analysis
		Collins - Chapter 7 - Using the Codification to Research Measurement Issues
11	29-Mar	May - Chapter 8 - Accounting Research
		Ary -

		Behrens - Chapter 11 - Practicing Academic Writing
		Collins - Chapter 8 - Fair Value Measurements in the Codification
12	5- Apr	May - Chapter 12 - E-Communication and social media
		Ary -
		Behrens -
		Collins - Chapter 9 - Audit and Professional Services Research
13	12- Apr	May - Chapter 13- Writing for Exams: Professional Certification and Academic Exams
		Ary -
		Behrens -
		Collins
14	19- Apr	May -
		Ary -
		Behrens -
		Collins -
15	26- Apr	May -
		Ary -
		Behrens -
		Collins -
16	3- May	May - Chapter 11 - Reports and Discussion Papers and Chapter 16 - Oral Communication: Listening and Speaking
		Ary -
		Behrens -
		Collins - Chapter 13 - Delivering Effective Presentations

Important University Dates

<https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html>

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

Technology Requirements

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. **We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/>] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [<https://tamuct.onecampus.com/>]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email address. Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

[Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [http://hdc.tamu.edu]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar’s Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar’s Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar’s Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University-Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations, please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both virtually and in-person. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question, are interested in becoming a tutor, or in need of success coaching contact the Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion at (254) 501-5836, visit the Warrior Center at 212 Warrior Hall, or by emailing WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu.

To schedule tutoring sessions and view tutor availability, please visit [Tutor Matching Services](https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT) [https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT] or visit the Tutoring Center in 111 Warrior Hall.

Chat live with a remote tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online

tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. For the Spring 2022 semester, the hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M–Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. [Schedule an appointment here](https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956) [https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956]. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/bit) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/bit]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

Professional level writing and communication are critical skills in the business world. This standard should be displayed in all assignments for this class. All communications, both to the Professor and student colleagues should be kept professional, including Discussion Board postings and email correspondence. For written assignments, all work should be proofread, free of grammatical errors, include proper citations, and be by American Psychological Association (APA) standards.

NOTE #1: There are NO EXTRA CREDIT assignments available for this course.

NOTE #2: Requests for Incomplete Grades: Incompletes will only be given in emergency or

other extreme circumstances. The professor must approve any request for an incomplete grade in this course before the last week of classes. Where possible, requests should be submitted in written form and must include an address and telephone number where you may be contacted throughout the following semester. For a request for an incomplete grade to be considered, at least two-thirds of the coursework has to be completed. Finally, approval of an incomplete is up to the department chair.

NOTE #3: Questions concerning one's grade on a particular task (e.g., test, case) This should be resolved within one week after receiving the graded material. There will not be reviewing of previously graded material at the end of the semester.

NOTE #4: Late Submissions/Resubmissions You have a period of 7 days each week to complete and submit the weekly assignments. Make sure to plan your time wisely and avoid last minute submissions since no late assignments will be accepted. All assignments must be turned in by the due date unless an extension has been granted. **EXTENSIONS ON ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE CONSIDERED ONLY IF THEY ARE REQUESTED AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE THE DUE DATE OF THE ASSIGNMENT UNDER QUESTION.** After the fact, extensions will not be granted, so if you are sick and you know you will not be able to take a test or submit an assignment on the set due date, make sure to contact me at least 48 hours in advance.

NOTE #5: Changes to Syllabus A syllabus serves as an instructional and study planning document for both faculty and students. Although every effort will be taken to complete the semester according to the syllabus, it may become necessary to make specific changes to facilitate the academic environment better. In such an event, changes will be notified via an announcement in the course. Changes may be made within the last two weeks of the semester only in exceptional circumstances.

Copyright Notice.

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

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