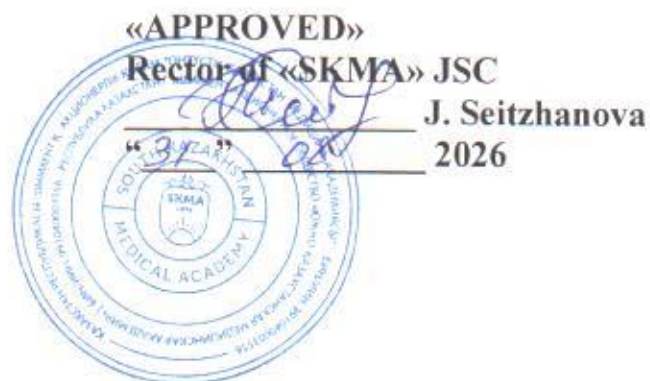




ACADEMIC INTEGRITY CODE

C 121-2026

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ONTÜSTIK-QAZAQSTAN MEDISINA AKADEMIASY «Оңтүстік Қазақстан медицина академиясы» АҚ		 SOUTH KAZAKHSTAN MEDICAL ACADEMY АО «Южно-Казахстанская медицинская академия»
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2. Approved by the decision of the Quality Council of «South Kazakhstan Medical Academy» JSC.

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1. REGULATORY REFERENCES

This Code has been developed on the basis of the following regulatory documents:

- Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 319-III “On Education” dated June 27, 2007;
- Order No. 595 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated October 30, 2018, “On Approval of the Standard Rules for the Activities of Educational Organizations of the Relevant Types”;
- Concept of the Anti-Corruption Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2022–2026, approved by Decree No. 802 of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated February 2, 2022;
- Charter of SKMA.

2. TERMS, DEFINITIONS, SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The following terms, definitions, symbols and abbreviations are used in this document:

SKMA – «South Kazakhstan Medical Academy» Joint Stock Company;
 Teaching Staff (TS) – academic and teaching staff.

3. GENERAL PROVISIONS

3.1. This Academic Integrity Code (hereinafter referred to as the Code) has been developed at «South Kazakhstan Medical Academy» Joint Stock Company (hereinafter referred to as SKMA) in order to ensure fair, transparent and proper resolution of issues related to the academic integrity of students and employees.

3.2. This Code regulates activities aimed at organizing and ensuring academic integrity at SKMA and contains the principal mechanisms for implementing the academic integrity policy and preventing its violations.

3.3. Responsibility for implementing this Code rests with all students, teaching staff (hereinafter referred to as TS) and employees of SKMA.

3.4. SKMA is a community whose activities are aimed at education, scientific research and the development of information technologies. The quality of education is ensured through purposeful activities based on the principles of integrity, trust, tolerance, fairness and responsibility. A high level of student training is based on quality teaching and compliance with academic integrity.

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3.5. SKMA requires students and employees to comply with the principles of this Code.

1) Any form of violation of academic integrity contradicts the system of values of SKMA.

2) The integrity of the academic learning process and the quality of the academic degree awarded are directly related to the quality of education.

3) Violations of integrity committed by employees, TS or students may negatively affect the quality of the educational process, its outcomes and the image of SKMA.

4) 3.6. This Code applies to all areas and activities of SKMA.

5) In certain cases, violations by employees, students and TS of not only academic but also other non-academic rules may be considered.

6) In such cases, appropriate measures provided for by this Code, as well as other regulatory documents of SKMA, may be applied to students, TS and employees.

3.7. The principles of this Code apply to:

- all employees, students and TS of SKMA;
- temporarily suspended employees, students and TS.

3.8. Employees, students and TS shall understand that, in addition to the appropriate measures that may be applied by SKMA, other sanctions may also be imposed by competent authorities under civil and criminal jurisdiction.

4. PRINCIPLES OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

4.1. The basic principles of academic integrity of students in the educational process are:

1) Integrity – honest and diligent performance of duties by TS, employees and students, and zero tolerance for manifestations of corruption;

2) Protection of the rights of authors and their successors – recognition of authorship and protection of works that constitute objects of copyright, ensured by properly citing the words and ideas of other persons and indicating information sources in assessed work;

3) Transparency – openness, mutual trust and free exchange of information and ideas between students and teachers;

4) Respect for the rights and freedoms of others – the right to freely express one's opinions and ideas;

5) Equality – the obligation of every student, member of the TS and employee to comply with the principles and rules of academic integrity and equal liability for their violation;

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6) Honesty – avoidance of deception, falsehood and falsification of documents in any situation and area of activity;

7) Accuracy – provision of information corresponding to the truth and making scientific conclusions based on facts and objective judgments;

8) Responsibility – compliance with the Academic Integrity Code and prevention of situations that may lead to violations of academic integrity;

9) Objectivity – making decisions on the basis of objective data, without bias or subjective views;

10) Fairness – ensuring strict observance of the rights and obligations of TS, students and employees, as well as fair consideration of academic integrity violations;

11) Zero tolerance for academic integrity violations – recording and reviewing every violation of academic integrity and applying measures to persons who have committed violations in accordance with this Code.

4.2. For the successful implementation of the principles of this Code, all processes carried out within the framework of this Code at SKMA must be transparent and impartial.

4.3. Parity-based and trust-based relations shall be established among participants in the process.

4.4. TS, students and employees have the right to receive all information concerning complaints filed against them, the progress of an investigation, and decisions made, as well as to appeal such decisions in accordance with the regulatory documents of SKMA and the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

5. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF STUDENTS

5.1. Academic integrity is a fundamental principle of the educational process.

5.2. Relations between students and teachers shall be based on mutual respect. Rudeness, the use of abusive language, violation of the rights, honor and dignity of other persons, causing physical, moral or material harm to them, and unlawful actions are prohibited.

5.3. When resolving issues arising in the educational process, students, employees and TS of SKMA shall first of all be guided by this Code and/or other regulatory documents of SKMA governing the relevant process.

5.4. Students have the right to access all information concerning the courses they study and to have such information regularly updated.

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5.5. Students' rights:

1) Freely express their opinions in the educational process provided that such opinions do not contradict generally accepted ethical principles;

2) Defend themselves against unfounded accusations of violating this Code and provide evidence;

3) Require teachers to provide quality educational services within the framework of the approved educational program.

4) 5.6. Students' obligations:

5) Familiarize themselves with the text of this Code and know the consequences of violating it;

6) Strictly comply with academic integrity in the educational process and other processes;

7) When quoting the words and ideas of another person, follow citation rules, indicating the author, title of the work and page;

8) Indicate a list of references used in essays and other written assignments;

9) Use truthful and reliable information sources;

10) Not give and/or sell their completed assessment work to other students;

11) Respect and comply with the basic principles governing the use of the intellectual property of other persons;

12) Accept and strictly comply with ethical rules;

13) Comply with all principles of this Code during any type of current, midterm and final assessment;

14) Remember that the work performed by a student must be the student's own individual work;

15) When writing essays and other written assignments and applications, use references indicating the author and work from which particular ideas have been obtained;

16) Not use cheat sheets, electronic devices, technologies, information or other prohibited means of communication during the educational process and examinations;

17) Complete all types of assignments independently;

18) Know the liability for academic integrity violations and understand that measures may be applied to a student under this Code;

19) Comply with lawful actions within the framework of this Code and contribute to improving the image of SKMA.

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5.7. A student shall not participate in corrupt or any other unlawful actions involving deception, dishonesty or misleading of teachers, employees or SKMA management, which contradict the principles of this Code and/or may lead to deterioration of the image of SKMA.

6. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATION, TEACHING STAFF AND EMPLOYEES

6.1. Academic integrity is a fundamental principle of the educational process.

6.2. Relations between students and teachers shall be based on mutual respect. Rudeness, the use of abusive language, humiliation of the honor and dignity of other persons, causing physical, moral or material harm to them, and unlawful actions are prohibited.

6.3. When resolving issues arising in the educational process, TS and employees of SKMA shall first of all be guided by this Code.

6.4. TS and employees have the right to access all information related to their professional activities and to have such information regularly updated.

6.5. Administration's rights:

1) Within the scope of its authority, issue acts regulating the work of structural divisions responsible for ensuring the principles of academic integrity, which are mandatory for all participants in the educational process;

2) Within the framework of this Code, participate in the discussion and resolution of issues falling within the authority of any structural division of SKMA;

3) Submit proposals for improving the principles of academic integrity for consideration by the collegial bodies of SKMA.

6.6. The Administration shall:

1) Comply with the Academic Integrity Code;

2) Coordinate work on taking measures provided for by this Code, as well as measures to be taken in cases of violations of the Code;

3) Monitor and supervise compliance with academic integrity by participants in the educational process;

4) Observe ethical standards and courtesy towards all employees, TS and students of SKMA;

5) Provide TS with opportunities for professional development and training;

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6) Resolve disputes arising in the course of identifying academic integrity violations in accordance with the Charter, this Code, Corporate Ethics Rules, employment contracts, other internal regulatory documents and the applicable legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan;

7) Prevent any violation of the requirements of the Academic Integrity Code and ensure strict compliance with its requirements, including in accordance with job descriptions approved by SKMA;

8) Strictly record every case of violation of the principles of academic integrity;

9) Comply with the Corporate Ethics Rules;

10) Take lawful decisions and measures aimed at improving the image of SKMA.

6.7. Rights of TS and employees:

1) Freely express their opinions in the course of their activities provided that such opinions do not contradict generally accepted ethical principles;

2) Defend themselves against unfounded accusations of violating this Code and provide evidence.

6.8. TS and employees of SKMA are responsible for identifying and preventing manifestations of academic integrity violations.

6.9. Participants in the educational process shall remember that they may be subject to moral liability for violations of the principles of academic integrity.

6.10. TS and employees shall:

1) Comply with and strictly perform all duties stipulated by employment contracts, job descriptions and other regulatory documents related to their activities at SKMA;

2) Specify the course policy in syllabi and communicate it to students;

3) Use approved methods for assessing students' knowledge;

4) Be responsible for maintaining the electronic journal and enter current assessment results and attendance into the electronic journal daily;

5) Provide students, for examination preparation purposes, with access to practice tests and lists of written and oral examination questions without answers;

6) Inform students that their written work will be checked for plagiarism using appropriate software;

7) Teach and assist students in selecting truthful and reliable sources of knowledge for the subject;

8) Teach methods of formatting citations, reference lists, and quotations of the words and ideas of other persons;

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9) Teach methods of documenting project activities carried out on paper, electronic and digital media, indicating the authorship of all project participants;

10) Conduct explanatory work on compliance with academic integrity before students undertake assessment activities;

11) Prevent any possibility of violating the requirements established by this Code;

12) Strictly record every case of violation of this Code;

13) Notify the Compliance Officer and/or SKMA management (Rector, Vice-Rector, Dean) of every violation of the Code and, if the student is a minor, notify the student's parents or other legal representative;

14) Promote the integration of the principles of academic integrity into their professional practice;

15) Create conditions conducive to the intellectual and moral development of students, their education based on ethics and sustainable development;

16) Study the regulatory documents of SKMA, as well as regulatory documents applicable within the Republic of Kazakhstan and the international community;

17) Participate in seminars and practical classes related to supporting academic integrity;

18) Library staff shall assist students in selecting texts and sources for completing assignments and cooperate closely with TS when planning work.

In implementing the principles of this Code, the role of the librarian in working with participants in the educational process on the use of references and quotations in accordance with applicable rules and regulatory documents is fundamental. The library shall cooperate with students to help them find reliable and accurate resources and correctly cite and use various sources.

The following ethical and cultural standards shall be observed both on the territory of SKMA and outside SKMA:

- respect all people regardless of age, status, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity;
- communicate respectfully with everyone;
- demonstrate literacy and competence in relevant matters;
- comply with all standards aimed at improving the quality of education;
- cause no physical or moral harm to anyone;
- do not damage SKMA property;
- do not smoke, spit, litter or consume alcoholic beverages on the territory of SKMA;
- actively participate in educational, extracurricular and public activities;
- comply with corporate ethics;
- demonstrate team spirit;

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– comply with lawful actions within the framework of this Code and contribute to improving the image of SKMA.

7. TYPES AND LEVELS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY VIOLATIONS

Main Types and Levels of Violations

7.1. Corrupt conduct/offense – an intentional or negligent unlawful act and/or omission committed by students, TS or employees of SKMA that contradicts the principles of this Code and other regulatory documents of SKMA in the field of anti-corruption policy.

1) Giving a bribe in monetary and/or other equivalent form, including in the form of a service or gift;

2) Accepting a bribe in monetary and/or other equivalent form, including in the form of a service or gift;

3) Mediation between parties that have been, are, or may be participants in a corruption offense;

4) Participating, without compensation, in a corruption offense without giving or receiving a bribe in monetary and/or other equivalent form, including in the form of a service or gift, in order to achieve one's objectives;

5) Concealing information about violations of the provisions of this Code of a corrupt nature that may or have had a negative impact on the educational process and/or the image of SKMA.

7.2. Plagiarism – the intentional or negligent appropriation of the results of another person's work, including submitting an assignment completed wholly or partially by another person as one's own work.

Plagiarism also includes presenting another person's work, idea, conclusion or opinion without proper reference to the source.

This rule also applies to copying material from the Internet or other electronic sources, specifically:

1) Copying sentence structures while changing words without reference to the source, or paraphrasing one or more paragraphs in a manner close to the original meaning, as well as using graphs, images, drawings, diagrams or other visual/audio materials without indicating the source and/or without the author's permission;

2) Providing false or altered information in any academic assignment, including inventing experimental data, altering data, citing non-existent articles, using fictitious sources, etc.;

3) Submitting work completed wholly or partially by another student as one's own;

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4) Using specialized services for writing assignments, services provided by other students for writing assignments, or translations from a foreign language and presenting the resulting material as one's original work.

7.3. Cheating (use of cheat sheets) – a violation of academic integrity that harms the quality of education at SKMA.

1) Unauthorized access to examination materials or providing unauthorized access to them;

2) Using a cheat sheet, mobile phone, books, calculators or other materials/devices during an examination without the teacher's permission;

3) Copying from another student's examination paper with or without that student's permission, or allowing another student to copy from one's examination paper;

4) Committing any other action during an examination or any assessed assignment that gives a student an unfair advantage;

5) Assisting in or organizing any of the above actions.

7.4. Falsification – a form of academic deception involving the intentional distortion of information.

1) Submitting a false application to SKMA, an application for financial assistance, or any other official document;

2) Submitting a false or forged medical certificate concerning missed classes or examinations, failure to complete work on time, or other reasons;

3) Using a forged or unlawfully altered student ID card;

4) Forging an academic transcript or other academic documents;

5) Falsifying grades, assessment results or assignment answers;

6) Falsifying measurement and observation data, survey, questionnaire and other methodological data during research by adding, entering or altering data;

7) Unjustifiably increasing grades for written assessments and other types of work;

8) Intentionally falsifying or damaging another student's assessed work;

9) Deliberately avoiding participation in group work in order to evade responsibility in the event of failure and/or obtain a grade without effort with the assistance of others;

10) Missing an academic day on which an assessment is conducted without a valid reason in order to gain an advantage;

11) Forgery of any type of SKMA documents by students, TS and SKMA employees.

7.5. Obtaining an unfair advantage – a violation occurring in the following cases:

1) Stealing, copying, bribing, selling, distributing or otherwise obtaining examination materials before their official release by the teacher;

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2) Stealing, destroying, selling, damaging or concealing library materials in order to prevent other students from using them;

3) Obtaining unauthorized assistance from other persons, with or without a corrupt offense, while completing an academic assignment;

4) Retaining, possessing, using or distributing examination materials previously obtained where it is clearly stated that such materials must be returned to the teacher after the examination;

5) Intentionally interfering with or obstructing the academic work of other students;

6) Committing other actions, with or without a corrupt offense, intended to create or obtain an unfair academic advantage concerning the academic work of other students;

7) Damaging, destroying or otherwise harming the work of other students in order to reduce their academic performance;

8) Continuing to work after the examination time has expired;

9) Talking during an examination and/or disturbing another student;

10) Asking another student to complete an examination assignment or test in one's place.

7.6. Multiple submission (duplicate submission) – submitting the same work more than once for assessment without the teacher's consent.

7.7. Collusion – completing any assessed work for another student, regardless of whether the benefit accrues to one or more participants.

7.8. Deception

1) Copying assessed work from other students;

2) Resubmitting or reusing previously assessed work;

3) Providing false reasons for failing to complete assessed work or for failing to complete it on time;

4) Joint completion of assessed work by two or more students where group work is not permitted;

5) Any evidence or arguments that in any way distort the truth.

6) 7.9. Dishonest acquisition of answers to assessed work

7) Obtaining or providing answers during the completion of assessed work;

8) Obtaining or providing, in whole or in part, materials through another student, teaching staff member or employee before the assessed work is conducted (test tasks with answers, examination tickets and written examination assignments);

9) Purchasing course papers, graduation theses, master's theses/projects, etc., or obtaining assessed work by other means for submission as one's own work;

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10) Assisting in and/or selling ready-made assessed works (course papers, graduation theses, master's theses/projects, etc.) or facilitating their purchase and/or sale.

7.10. Impersonation/substitution of one person for another – actions committed during midterm, boundary, final assessment (boundary assessment, examinations, testing, etc.), laboratory work and other assignments for the purpose of obtaining an academic advantage.

Unauthorized access occurs when a student obtains confidential information through deception and/or corruption (or without corruption), using prohibited actions, devices or hacking activities in order to obtain academic or other advantages.

7.11. Unauthorized dissemination of data – disclosure, distribution or publication of confidential information to third parties without prior consent, where such disclosure constitutes a violation of this Code. Confidential information includes academic information, personal data and other documents that are not publicly available.

7.12. Assistance in violating academic integrity rules – assistance in violating the principles of academic integrity constitutes a violation and shall be considered in accordance with this Code.

Knowingly assisting other students includes:

- 1) allowing another student to copy one's assessed work, providing answers, or allowing the use of cheat sheets, textbooks, etc.;
- 2) submitting the assessed work of another person as one's own.

7.13. Academically inappropriate behavior – any behavior that provides a student with an unfair advantage or affects the results of another student.

7.14. The list of academic integrity violations contained in this Code is not exhaustive and may be supplemented as necessary.

7.15. All forms of academic integrity violations not specified in this Code but which may in any way affect the quality of educational and other processes or the reputation of SKMA may be considered violations of this Code.

8. FORMS OF LIABILITY FOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY VIOLATIONS

8.1. A violation of academic integrity is a serious breach of trust that affects the quality of educational services.

8.2. Any case of academic misconduct shall be considered on the basis of the principles of impartiality, consistency, fairness, further investigation and timely decision-making.

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8.3. Appropriate disciplinary measures may be applied to students, TS and employees who violate academic integrity standards:

- 1) cancellation of work results;
- 2) invalidation of the work;
- 3) verbal warning;
- 4) written warning, reprimand, severe reprimand;
- 5) expulsion from SKMA;
- 6) expulsion from SKMA without the right to reinstatement;
- 7) temporary suspension from work at SKMA;
- 8) dismissal from SKMA.

Preventive measures:

- 1) Carefully supervise and monitor the educational process and assessment activities in order to prevent violations of the provisions of this Code;
- 2) Check all types of students' written assessment work for plagiarism using the “Antiplagiat” software;
- 3) Check all graduation theses for plagiarism in accordance with the procedure specified in the instructions for conducting final attestation of students under higher and postgraduate education programs;
- 4) Check master's theses for plagiarism in the same manner;
- 5) Develop zero-tolerance attitudes toward violations of the provisions of this Code and the anti-corruption policy among students, TS and employees of SKMA;
- 6) Preventive measures concerning the academic integrity of students, TS and employees of SKMA are regulated by the internal regulatory documents of SKMA (Academic Policy, Anti-Corruption Policy, Employment Contract, Job Descriptions, regulations, etc.).

9. ETHICS AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY COUNCIL

9.1. Each specific case of violation of this Code may be considered by the Ethics and Academic Integrity Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) specially established by the Rector of SKMA.

9.2. Based on the results of the Council's work, a decision may be made to impose disciplinary sanctions on students, as well as relevant employees and TS of SKMA.

9.3. If a violation of the provisions of this Code by students, teachers or employees of SKMA is established, the Council may bring them to disciplinary liability, including expulsion from SKMA or dismissal from employment.

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9.4. The Council is established as an independent collegial body responsible for protecting the rights of participants in the educational process and ensuring moral, ethical, anti-corruption and legal assessment of students' educational activities and the educational-methodological, scientific and other activities of SKMA's TS.

9.5. The composition, functions and duties, rights and obligations, work regulations, liability and other activities of the Council shall be regulated by the “Regulations on the Ethics and Academic Integrity Council.”

The main tasks and functions of the Council are:

- 1) Prevent violations of academic integrity among students, TS and employees of SKMA;
- 2) Conduct independent investigations (expert examinations) when facts of academic integrity violations arise;
- 3) Assess compliance with ethical, anti-corruption and academic integrity principles when performing any type of work in all areas of activity;
- 4) Participate in the assessment of students' work and the activities of TS and employees and organize expert examination of such work from the perspective of academic integrity;
- 5) Consider disputes related to violations of academic integrity and non-compliance with ethical standards;
- 6) Conduct activities aimed at integrating academic integrity principles into the educational process and preventing violations of ethical conduct standards by students, TS and employees;
- 7) Hold meetings and make decisions regarding cases of academic integrity violations;
- 8) Interact with other public administration bodies;
- 9) Take preventive measures concerning compliance with the anti-corruption policy and academic integrity;
- 10) Apply administrative disciplinary measures and sanctions to students, TS and employees of SKMA for all types of violations;
- 11) Provide explanations, recommendations and instructions and make decisions on matters within its competence.

10. ACTIONS OF TEACHING STAFF, EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS IN CASES OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY VIOLATIONS

10.1. When a member of the TS, an employee or a student of SKMA identifies a case of academic integrity violation, information and evidence concerning the violation

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shall be submitted to their immediate supervisor, teacher, dean and/or directly to the Compliance Officer, Vice-Rector or Rector of SKMA.

10.2. The incident or complaint must be documented in writing.

10.3. Where necessary, a teacher, employee or student of SKMA may submit a written application or complaint to the Compliance Officer, as well as make an anonymous report through the “Trust Box” and/or “Trust Line”:

(87252) 39-42-83, 8775-398-67-57,
e-mail: anticorruption@skma.kz.

Their activities are regulated by the Anti-Corruption Policy of SKMA and the Regulations on the “Trust Box” and “Trust Line.”

10.4. Every employee, teacher and student of SKMA may refer academic integrity matters to the Council for consideration.

10.5. Where necessary, the Compliance Officer and/or a special commission established by order of the Rector may conduct an internal investigation into facts of academic integrity violations.

10.6. Based on the results of the internal investigation, its conclusion shall be submitted to the Council for decision-making.

10.7. Ignorance of the provisions of this Code shall not constitute a justification and shall not exempt a person from liability.

Types of disciplinary sanctions:

- 1) Disciplinary warning;
- 2) Reprimand;
- 3) Severe reprimand;
- 4) Expulsion from SKMA;
- 5) Dismissal from SKMA.

11. APPEAL

11.1. Students who disagree with an accusation of violating the provisions of this Code have the right to file an appeal.

11.2. The work of the Appeals Commission specially established by the Rector of SKMA shall be regulated by the “Regulations on the Activities of the Appeals Commission,” as well as other internal regulatory documents of SKMA.

11.3. After consideration and discussion by the Council, students, TS and employees of SKMA who disagree with the Council's decision may appeal the Council's decision in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

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Developed by:

Position	Full Name	Date	Signature
Compliance Officer	Pernebayev N.A.	31.08.2026	

Reviewed by:

Position	Full Name	Date	Signature
Head of the Quality Assurance and Monitoring Department	Erzhanov N.A.	31.08.2026	
Head of the Department of Administrative and Legal Support	Kabishtayev O.A.	31.08.2026	

Agreed by:

Position	Full Name	Date	Signature
Vice-Rector for Educational and Social Affairs	Salim E.K.	31.08.2026	
Vice-Rector for Research and Strategic Development	Aukenov N.E.	31.08.2026	
Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs	Anartayeva M.U.	31.08.2026	
Vice-Rector for Clinical Affairs	Nurmashev B.K.	31.08.2026	