



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

SUMMARY OF THE NAS CONDUCT REVIEW PROCESS

- An allegation of a violation* of the NAS Code of Conduct by an NAS member or international member is reported in writing to the NAS Home Secretary or International Secretary (the “cognizant officer”), respectively.
- The cognizant officer determines whether the alleged conduct may violate the Code of Conduct. If not, the cognizant officer dismisses the complaint and notifies the complainant. If so, the cognizant officer appoints an Assessment Panel consisting of at least five (5) NAS members to consider the complaint and notifies the complainant(s) and the accused member that an inquiry has been initiated, and requests the accused member to respond.
- The Assessment Panel makes a report to the standing Conduct Committee, including the full record of the complaint, the response of the accused member, and the record of the panel’s deliberations; the panel’s decision as to whether a violation occurred; and the recommended action, if any.
- Following its review of the Assessment Panel’s report, the Conduct Committee tells the NAS Council whether it concurs in the panel’s findings and recommendations. If a violation has occurred, it recommends action(s) to be taken by the NAS Council.
- The Council either approves the recommended action(s) or returns the matter to the Conduct Committee for further consideration. If it approves the action(s), the cognizant officer notifies the accused member and the complainant(s), if the action is to rescind or suspend membership, the member’s right to appeal.
- The accused member may file an appeal to the NAS President in writing, which must be received within sixty (60) days of the date that notice of the decision was sent, and which must be based only on failure to follow the process outlined above and not on the substance of the allegation(s). The President decides whether or not to grant an appeal, notifying the member of the decision. If the appeal is granted, the President requests the NAS Council to appoint an Appeal Committee consisting of at least five (5) Council members.
- Following review of the record, the Appeal Committee decides whether the review process was followed. If not, the president returns the matter to the cognizant officer. If so, the Council’s decision stands and the president notifies the member of the decision, which is final.
- Following the completion of the steps above, the cognizant officer notifies the complainant(s) of the decision and action(s).

All aspects of the inquiry into alleged misconduct will be treated in strict confidence, but although the process is confidential, including the membership of the Assessment Panel and Conduct Committee, the outcome is not.

* The NAS cannot undertake an investigation unless the matter falls under direct Academy purview (e.g., confidentiality with respect to discussions of candidates for NAS election or the deliberations of NAS and NRC committees, or matters involving PNAS) but will consider investigative reports, findings, or other official documents from academic or other institutions, funding agencies, or journals.