

Faculty Handbook, <http://www.southalabama.edu/academicaffairs/facultyhandbook.pdf> and the Staff Employee Handbook, <http://www.southalabama.edu/hr/staffemployeehandbook.html> for complaints regarding sexual harassment or sexual violence.

Final Grade Grievances

A final grade grievance is defined as a student complaint regarding an academic action taken by instructional personnel in assigning a final grade for a course, qualifying exam or comprehensive exam. Complaints may be filed against an individual instructor or a committee. The complaint must be based on arithmetical or clerical error, arbitrary or capricious evaluation on the part of the instructor, substantial failure on the part of the instructor to follow the course syllabus or other announced grading policies, or extraordinary mitigating circumstances beyond the student's control. The complaint may not be filed until the final course grade is received and cannot relate to an academic misconduct procedure. The Final Course Grade Grievance must be filed within 20 class days into the succeeding semester.

The Final Grade Grievance Form must be filed and submitted to the department chair offering the course in question. If the department chair is the instructor, the form must be filed with the dean. The student must first attempt to resolve the complaint with the instructor. If it cannot be resolved, the department chair will arrange a conference with the student and the instructor to attempt resolution within 10 days of receipt of the Final Grade Grievance Form. If a successful resolution is not achieved at the conference, the student may request a hearing before the College Grade Grievance Committee or the course grade will stand.

Each dean annually appoints an Undergraduate and a Graduate Grade Grievance Committee consisting of a minimum of five faculty and two students. The hearing will be conducted within ten class days of receipt of the request. The parties involved will be notified of the decision in writing within three class days of conclusion of the hearing. The only grounds for an appeal to the Dean are violation of due process or rendering a decision in conflict with university policy. Additional details are noted in the published policy.

Institutional Accreditation and Licensing

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges is the recognized regional accrediting body in the eleven U.S. Southern states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia) and in Latin America for those institutions of higher education that award associate, baccalaureate, master's or doctoral degrees. The University of South Alabama was initially accredited in 1968 with the most recent Reaffirmation of Accreditation in 2003. The next Reaffirmation is scheduled for December 2013. See <http://www.sacscoc.org/pdf/webmemlist.pdf>

Contact information for SACS is:

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033
Phone: (404)679-4500 • Fax: (404)679-4558

Authority and oversight of Alabama's public institutions of higher education is vested in each institution's Board of Trustees, as referenced in the Alabama Constitution and legislative acts as cited in the Code of Alabama of 1975. Complaints to the University of South Alabama Board of Trustees should be addressed to:

The University of South Alabama Board of Trustees
c/o Ms. Monica Curtis
307 University Blvd. Room 122
Mobile, Alabama 36688

The Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) is the coordinating board for higher education in this state. The Commission exercises no governing and limited regulatory authority over Alabama's public institutions. Ala. Code §16-5-1 et seq. (1975).

Contact information for ACHE is:

Alabama Commission on Higher Education
P.O. Box 30200
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-2000
Telephone: (334) 242-1998 • Fax: (334) 242-0268