

# 2021 Ethics Report

*Reporting Period: January 1 to December 31, 2021*

The Geological Society of America (GSA) is pleased to provide this Ethics Report as part of our ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of integrity and excellence through our work as a Society and across the geosciences.

Over the past year, GSA has proactively educated hundreds of leaders, staff, and program participants on ways to infuse professional conduct and ethics into our work and culture. These efforts are grounded in GSA's ethics policies, including GSA's [Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct](#), [Events Code of Conduct](#), and [Ethical Guidelines for Publishing](#). Collectively,

these policies promote a shared understanding of the behaviors needed to achieve scientific excellence and remove barriers that prevent full participation in our field and activities.

In the rare instances when complaints are raised, GSA follows a transparent process to ensure that complaints are investigated and addressed appropriately. GSA's governing body, the GSA Council, oversees all ethics matters to ensure that the established procedures are working. Council also decides upon sanctions and disciplinary action when an investigation by our Ethics Committee shows that a member has violated the Code of Ethics.

## 2021 ETHICS COMPLAINTS

The following table shows the types of ethics complaints GSA received in 2021.

	Interpersonal Misconduct*	Scientific Misconduct
Code of Ethics	3	1
Events Code of Conduct	4	0
Ethical Guidelines for Publishing	0	1

\*Includes complaints alleging harassment, discrimination, and/or bullying

In 2021, GSA received a total of nine complaints. GSA managed all nine complaints in accordance with standard procedures. One of the nine cases is still pending. The others were resolved as follows:

- Two Violations Found: We found violations in two cases and issued several forms of discipline, including the revocation of membership and fellowship and restrictions against participation in GSA events and activities for several years.
- Six Complaints Dismissed: We dismissed six complaints without making any findings for varied reasons. In four cases, we found insufficient evidence to support a violation. The two other cases were dismissed on procedural grounds. In one instance the complainant withdrew the complaint; in another, the accused was not covered by the Code of Ethics because they are not a GSA member.

We encourage you to visit [GSA's Ethics Homepage](#) for more information about our ethics initiatives. Please direct any questions, comments, or feedback to [ethics@geosociety.org](mailto:ethics@geosociety.org).