I. Policy

The University of Michigan strives to create and maintain a community that enables each person to reach his/her full potential. To do so requires an environment of trust, openness, civility and respect. The Office of Digital Education & Innovation (DEI) at the University is firmly committed to a policy of prohibiting behaviors which adversely impact a person’s ability to participate in the scholarly, research, educational, patient care, and service missions of the University enabled by Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) offered through a variety of technological platforms (each a MOOC Platform).

DEI has a compelling interest in ensuring an environment in which productive work and learning may thrive. At the same time, DEI has an interest in respecting freedom of speech and protecting academic freedom and in preserving the widest possible dialogue within its instructional and research settings. As such, DEI recognizes and expects there to be open discourse and exchanges that may cause some University personnel and MOOC learners (MOOC Community Member) to feel uncomfortable. It is through such exchanges that the flow of ideas and countervailing thoughts and experiences are expressed which can facilitate deeper understanding and learning. However, the University also expects its MOOC Community Members to engage in such interactions in a professional manner.

It is the intent of this policy to protect academic freedom and to help preserve the highest standards of academic discourse and scholarship in order to advance the mission of the University. This policy is specific to conduct which is not protected and covered under the principles of freedom of speech and academic freedom but rather conduct that the University community would view as counter to its norms and expectations and which hinders other members of the community in the exercise of their professional responsibilities and academic freedoms. DEI is prepared to act to prevent or remedy behaviors that interfere with, or adversely affect, a MOOC Community Member’s ability to learn or do his/her job.

In addition to protecting academic freedom, it is the position of the University of Michigan that a clear sense of academic responsibility is fundamental to an honest and collaborative educational environment, and behavior consistent with this principle is expected of all MOOC Community Members. As such, The University is committed to ensuring its MOOCs are free from academic misconduct while maintaining academic integrity at all times.

Finally, DEI may share certain MOOC learner data obtained from MOOC Platforms, including general MOOC course data, MOOC Platform Activity information and demographic data from surveys, with third parties for scholarly research purposes in compliance with both vendor contractual obligations and applicable laws.

II. Definitions
The following types of behaviors may be subject to sanction, including removal from the MOOC in accordance with the appropriate procedures.

These behaviors include oral, written, visual, or physical actions by a MOOC learner that:

a) Have the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s employment or educational performance; and/or

b) Have the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, offensive or abusive climate for an individual’s employment, academic pursuits, or participation in the MOOC.

Some examples of conduct that may violate this policy include, but are not limited to: threatening behavior, actions, or comments; bullying behavior (defined as a persistent pattern of negative behavior based upon a real or perceived power imbalance which belittles another member of a unit); disruption of functions or activities sponsored or authorized by the University; unwelcomed solicitation of personal contact information from a fellow MOOC Community Member that does not relate to a valid theme or assessment from the MOOC; solicitation of products or services that are not specifically recommended by University personnel; threats of physical harm to, or harassment of another member of the MOOC community; and behavior that results in a hostile working or learning environment. This list is not exhaustive, and MOOC Community Members may be subject to sanction and disciplinary action, including removal from a particular MOOC, for any type of conduct which, although not specifically enumerated, meets the standard for unacceptable behavior set forth above.

In addition, DEI considers any of the following behaviors to be academic misconduct for purposes of University of Michigan MOOCs:

● Copying from another’s exam or other evaluative assignment
● Using notes, books, digital devices or resources, or other materials for an exam or other evaluative assignment without explicit endorsement or instruction of the University of Michigan
● Submitting work that was previously used for another class without the explicit endorsement or instruction of the University of Michigan
● Discussing or sharing information about questions or answers on an exam or other evaluative assignment without explicit endorsement or instruction of the University of Michigan
● Allowing another person other than yourself to take an exam or complete an assignment
● Knowingly presenting another person's ideas, findings, images or written work as one's own by copying or reproducing without acknowledgement of the source
● Using more than one login
III. Alleged Violations of this Policy

Alleged violations of this policy should be reported on a timely basis to DEI through DEI-abuse@umich.edu. DEI will ensure that appropriate action is taken to address the situation.

The University will take appropriate steps to ensure that a person who, in good faith, reports or participates in a resolution of a concern brought forward under this policy is not subject to retaliation. In addition, subjecting such a person to retaliation is itself a violation of this policy.

Violation of this policy may result in appropriate sanction or disciplinary action. If removal from a particular MOOC is proposed, the matter will be addressed through the appropriate procedure connected with the MOOC Platform.