

Policy Title

Academic Integrity Policy

Preamble

This policy is consistent with:

- The Tertiary Education and Quality Standards Agency Act (2011)
- Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)
- Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)
- The Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021, Standard 5.2 Academic and Research Integrity
- The Deakin University Student Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity underpins the credibility, reputation and standing of an institution and the value of its awards, both domestically and internationally. Academic integrity extends beyond the academic experience, fostering responsible conduct, positive citizenship and professional ethical development of students as they embark upon their chosen careers.

Purpose

The policy aims to promote academic integrity across all campuses of Deakin College, in the first place by providing education and support for students and staff members. Where academic misconduct is suspected or where formal proceedings are applied, Deakin College will ensure that these actions are undertaken in a consistent, efficient and equitable manner.

Scope

The policy applies to all staff, prospective, enrolled, and graduated students at all campuses of Deakin College.

Academic Managers are responsible for the implementation of this policy. Academic Coordinators are responsible for the implementation of good academic integrity practices in their respective courses.

Policy

1. Principles that underlie this policy:

- 1.1.** Academic integrity is an essential pillar of tertiary learning and teaching at Deakin College.
- 1.2.** Academic misconduct is a serious offence in academia.
- 1.3.** The element inherent to academic misconduct is the attainment for another or oneself an unfair academic advantage in admission, assessment or course progress.
- 1.4.** Intention is not an essential requirement for establishing academic misconduct. Conduct may be intentional, reckless or unintentional.

- 1.5. Ensuring academic integrity is as much about educative practices and prevention as it is about upholding the values of respect, honesty and ethical behaviour.
- 1.6. Clear expectations about responsibilities, what constitutes proper academic writing and acknowledgement of another's work will be imparted through classes, teaching material and unit guides.
- 1.7. Deakin College will take reasonable steps to educate students and encourage the development of skills through library resources, on-line study resources, support material, workshops Academic Integrity Modules and the Student Learning Advisors.
- 1.8. Detection of academic misconduct is not limited to electronic software (Turnitin) but includes a manual analysis and academic judgment.
- 1.9. Academic integrity applies to all students and staff of Deakin College at all campuses who are expected to uphold the values of academic integrity (see Definitions).
- 1.10. The College will include in all Unit Outlines the definitions of plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating and misrepresentation, and advise that these are acts of academic misconduct for which penalties may apply in accordance with this Academic Integrity Policy.
- 1.11. Deakin College recognises that students come from different learning cultures and backgrounds and that mistakes are a natural part of learning, as students gain the necessary competence and research skills for further studies.

2. Education and Support

- 2.1. Deakin College students will be provided with information about academic integrity as part of their transition to and throughout their education at Deakin College.
- 2.2. All courses will include compulsory learning experiences to develop students understanding of the principles of academic integrity and how to apply them to their learning and assessment.
- 2.3. In addition to information and unit learning experiences, students can participate or be required to participate in on-campus workshops and/or online academic integrity programs.
- 2.4. Professional development for staff members will be provided in regard to educating students about academic integrity and assessment design to minimise opportunities for breaches of academic integrity.
- 2.5. Academic Coordinators will ensure that:
 - New teaching staff are informed about the College's Academic Integrity Policy as part of their induction;
 - All teaching staff are reminded about policy requirements regarding academic integrity at least annually.

3. Academic Misconduct Offences

3.1. Plagiarism

The element inherent to plagiarism is the lack of acknowledgment to the original source.

Plagiarism may include:

- Paraphrasing, copying, or presenting any part of the work of another or other person(s) without a reference to those sources;
- Reproducing teaching material or lecture notes without acknowledgment of those sources in the work;
- Translating foreign works into English without acknowledgment of those sources;
- Reusing one's own previously submitted or assessed work, in part or in whole, without prior written permission from the Unit Coordinator;
- In the case of group work, falsely claiming or attributing authorship where there has been inadequate contribution.

3.2. Collusion

- Collusion is not limited to unauthorised collaboration with a Deakin College or Deakin University student but may include unauthorised collaboration with any person, irrespective of their status and/or location;
- Collusion includes assistance provided to, or received from another person in the preparation or production of any part of a work;
- Editing and proofreading may result in collusion if there is a contribution to the work resulting in a work no longer being the original work of the student. This may include rewriting, contribution of additional material, amending work or part of a work;
- Collusion may also include sharing answers or allowing another person or persons to copy any part of a work.

3.3. Cheating and Contract Cheating

Cheating may include:

- Inappropriate use of artificial intelligence: using artificial intelligence content production tools to produce or complete all or part of an assessment task to submit as a student's own work without being explicitly permitted by the assessment specification;
- Accessing unauthorised notes during an examination that is held either on-campus or online. The notes may be on or in an object, a data storage device (see Definitions), or on any part of the body;
- Communication with another student during an examination. It is irrelevant whether or not information is exchanged or imparted in the communication. Communication includes speech, writing, non-verbal communication, or the use of a data storage device.
- Copying from another student or allowing another student to copy during an examination or assessment that is held either on-campus or online;

Contract Cheating may include:

- Purchasing work, bartering or commissioning another person or website to produce work which is then passed off as one's own.
- Selling one's work is also considered contract cheating.

3.4. Misrepresentation may include:

- Submission of a falsified testimonial or academic transcript to gain admission to a course at Deakin College;
- Submission of fabricated or falsified documents, or medical certificates to gain an advantage in admission, assessment or course progress;
- In respect of attendance requirements under the Attendance Policy, falsely asserting attendance at a class or laboratory session.
- Sitting an examination, practical or test that is held either on-campus or online on behalf of another student or having another person undertake the assessment.

4. Appeal

- 4.1.** A student who has been found to have engaged in academic misconduct is entitled to a review of the decision under the Deakin College Appeals Policy.
- 4.2.** The authority responsible for considering and deciding on the internal appeal is Deakin College Appeals Committee. The appeal must be made within 20 working days from the date when the outcome was advised in writing.

5. Records To Be Kept in Register

- 5.1.** Academic Services will be responsible for maintaining a register of academic breaches and outcomes.

Related Policies

Assessment Policy
Appeals Policy

Procedure

Academic Integrity Procedure

Definitions

Key Term or Acronym	Definition
Academic Integrity	Upholding the principles of honesty and ethical conduct in the learning environment with respect for and acknowledgement of the work of other authors.
Academic Misconduct	Engagement in conduct by a student which amounts to plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating or misrepresentation.

Artificial intelligence tools and technologies	Artificial intelligence (AI) can be explained as machines behaving intelligently by problem solving or completing tasks. It is a very broad subject that involves computer science, cognitive science, mathematics, philosophy, neuroscience, linguistics and many more.
Cheating	Any dishonest conduct whether in an assessment or in any representation.
Collusion	Work that is produced in part or in whole by unauthorised collaboration with other person(s) which is then presented by any of the parties as their own work.
Contract Cheating	Purchasing work, bartering or commissioning another person or website to produce a work which is then passed off as one's own.
Data storage device	A device for storing, processing or communicating information such as tablets, mobile phones, watches, or any other device with computing, storage capability and internet connectivity.
Day	Includes Victorian and National public holidays and weekends.
Misrepresentation	An assertion by words, conduct or non-disclosure of information which creates a false status or is not consistent with the facts.
Paraphrase	The rephrasing of a short passage from another person's work.
Plagiarism	The act of presenting the work of another person(s) as though it is one's own original work, whether intentionally or by accident, without proper reference of the original source or sources.
Proofreading	The undertaking by another person of reading and identifying errors, and providing suggestions or making recommendations to the work.
Recklessness	Indifference as to the truth or indifference as to whether or not the conduct amounts to academic misconduct.
Work	Includes, but is not limited to, another person's ideas, research, manner of expression, published or unpublished material, a web page content, data, diagrams, graphs, tables, mathematical or scientific calculations or formulae, photographs, digital images, video or multimedia material, computer code or files. This includes the work of other student writers.

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