

Policy Title: Academic Integrity

Policy Owner: Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor

Keywords: Academic Integrity, Academic Misconduct, Scholarship

Policy Code: PL276 [ac107]

[Intent](#)

[Organisational Scope](#)

[Definitions](#)

[Policy Content](#)

[Accountabilities and Responsibilities](#)

[Related Documents](#)

[Contact Information](#)

[Approval History](#)

1. INTENT

This policy articulates the principles underpinning the University's commitment to academic integrity and sets out the framework for promoting and assuring academic integrity in all aspects of teaching, learning and research at the University:

- in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015; and
- consistent with the University's values of Integrity, Respect, Rational inquiry and Personal excellence.

2. ORGANISATIONAL SCOPE

This policy applies to all Students and Staff of Edith Cowan University (ECU).

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the [University Statute No. 22 Student Conduct](#) and the [University Rules: Academic Misconduct Rules \(Students\)](#).

3. DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
Academic integrity	"a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to six fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action" (from the International Centre for Academic Integrity, 2014 Integrity (2014), Fundamental Values Project, http://www.academicintegrity.org/icai/resources-2.php)
ECU Academic Integrity Module	An online module providing education and information on academic integrity and referencing/citation requirements which is integrated into first year core units.

TERM	DEFINITION
Academic Misconduct (as per the University Rules: Academic Misconduct Rules (Students))	<p>Any conduct by a Student in relation to academic work that is dishonest or unfair and includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plagiarism • Unauthorised collaboration. • Cheating in assessment. • Theft of another student's work; and/or • Making a false declaration about the material submitted for assessment. <p>Examples of such conduct may include Contract Cheating, fabrication or falsification of data or bribery by a Student to obtain a different assessment outcome.</p>
Contract Cheating	Occurs when a Student employs or uses a third party to undertake their assessed work for them.
scholarship	Those activities concerned with gaining new or improved understanding, appreciation and insights into a field of knowledge, and engaging with and keeping up to date with advances in the field .
Student	Any student enrolled in, or otherwise undertaking, any award or non-award course or unit of the University.
Staff	Any member of staff including adjuncts and honorary/guest lecturers and any other person involved in the delivery of any course or unit of the University.

4. POLICY CONTENT

4.1 PRINCIPLES

Academic integrity at ECU is guided by the following principles:

- Academic integrity is fundamental to learning, teaching, scholarship and research at the University.
- Academic integrity involves the ongoing fostering of a complex network of strategies and responsibilities across the University community.
- The University is committed to providing an educational approach to academic integrity, recognising that students need to be supported to develop and demonstrate academic skills.
- Academic integrity allows students and staff the freedom to build new ideas, scholarship, knowledge and creative works while respecting and acknowledging the work of others.

4.2 PROMOTING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- 4.2.1 ECU is committed to guiding and supporting staff and students to undertake teaching, learning and research activities with integrity at all times. ECU will take a whole-of-University approach to promoting academic integrity by maintaining an Academic Integrity Portal on the University web site that provides access to resources on academic integrity for prospective and current students and for staff.
- 4.2.2 The University requires the completion of an ECU Academic Integrity Module by:
- all new students (undergraduate and postgraduate) who undertake an award course of the University (irrespective of mode or location); and
 - all staff involved in teaching, learning and research.
- 4.2.3 Each Award course offered by the University must take a whole-of-course approach to integrating academic integrity awareness and instruction, supporting the development of good practices, and embedding and scaffolding assessment on academic integrity within a discipline context.
- 4.2.4 Course and unit assessment regimes must be designed to minimise the potential for academic misconduct by students.

4.3 RESPONDING TO ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

- 4.3.1 The University will respond to academic misconduct in a fair, consistent, transparent and timely manner in accordance with applicable statutes and rules including the [University Rules: Academic Misconduct Rules \(Students\)](#).

4.4 MONITORING ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

- 4.4.1 Each year, Schools, the Graduate Research School and the Director, Student Services Centre will report to the Education Committee:
- Statistics and trends relating to allegations and findings of academic misconduct for both coursework and HDR students;
 - the manner in which the allegations were dealt with;
 - the steps taken to promote academic integrity and minimise academic misconduct within the relevant School or Centre; and
 - action plans to continuously improve academic integrity across the University.
- 4.4.2 The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) will provide a consolidated report on Academic integrity including actions for continuous improvement by the University to Academic Board annually.
- 4.4.3 The University, through the Director, Student Administration, will ensure that records of academic integrity allegations, breaches, investigations and outcomes are kept secure and confidential, in accordance with the *Privacy Policy* and *Records Management Policy*.

4.5 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.5.1 Students must:

- a. Act in accordance with the principles of academic integrity in their learning and research;
- b. Become familiar with the principles of academic integrity both generally and for their discipline or course of study;
- c. Familiarise themselves with the expectations for assessment, including assessment task requirements, acknowledgement practice, and marking criteria;
- d. Only submit for assessment work that properly acknowledges the ideas, designs, words or works of others and is otherwise their own original work; and
- e. Otherwise refrain from any forms of academic misconduct as defined in this or any other University policy document.

4.5.2 Schools and the Graduate Research School must:

- a. Ensure that a consistent, whole-of-school approach is taken to promote the principles and practice of academic integrity;
- b. Promote academic integrity in its courses as they are developed or reviewed, through the integration of learning experiences and assessment tasks that allow students to develop and demonstrate good academic practices as they progress through the course;
- c. Adhere to the [University Rules: Academic Misconduct Rules \(Students\)](#) and take a fair and consistent approach to the identification and investigation of possible cases of academic misconduct and actions to address substantiated allegations of academic misconduct;
- d. Maintain secure and confidential records relating to the management of allegations of academic misconduct as prescribed by the University; and
- e. Take such other actions as are expressly required in other sections of this Policy.

4.5.3 Each Associate Dean Teaching and Learning must:

- a. Oversee the development and delivery of appropriate academic integrity education in their School; and
- b. Analyse reports about trends in academic misconduct and advise the Executive Dean and Course Coordinators about appropriate educational interventions.

4.5.4 The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) must (through the Library, the Centre for Learning and Teaching or otherwise):

- a. provide academic integrity support and training for Students and Staff;
- b. provide resources for Students and Staff which address academic integrity and acknowledgment conventions;
- c. share advice and resources through the University web-site;
- d. ensure that Students and Staff have access to effective technologies including text-matching software, and exemplars for use;
- e. regularly review policies and procedures against national and international benchmarks to ensure best practice in promoting academic integrity and dealing with academic misconduct; and
- f. take such other actions as are expressly required in other sections of this Policy.

4.5.5 The University must:

- a. Ensure that collaborative partners of the University including third party providers and, where relevant, providers of work integrated learning opportunities:
 - i. Uphold and promote the principles and practices of academic integrity;
 - ii. maintain policies and procedures in respect of Academic integrity that are congruent, compatible and equally robust as the policies of the University; and
 - iii. Ensure that teaching staff employed by them act in a manner consistent with their academic integrity responsibilities.
- b. Provide resources and support necessary to ensure that the requirements and responsibilities outlined in this Policy may be fulfilled so that the University meets the requirements of the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) and applicable codes on research integrity in relation to academic integrity.

5. ACCOUNTABILITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In relation to this policy, the Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor has overall responsibility for the content of this policy and its operation in ECU

The Manager, Academic Governance and Standards is responsible for the maintenance of this policy.

All members of the University community are expected to comply with University Policy.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTS:

- Academic Integrity Procedures (in development)
- [University Statute No. 22 Student Conduct](#)
- [University Rules: Academic Misconduct Rules \(Students\)](#)
- [Research Misconduct policy](#)
- [Privacy policy](#)
- [Records Management policy](#)
- [TEQSA: Guidance Note: Academic Integrity](#)
- [Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2015](#)

7. CONTACT INFORMATION

For queries relating to this document please contact:

Policy Owner	Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor
All Enquiries Contact:	Manager, Academic Governance and Standards
Telephone:	08 9304 2179
Email address:	j.mccaffrey@ecu.edu.au

8. APPROVAL HISTORY

Policy Approved by:	Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Acting Vice-Chancellor)
Date Policy First Approved:	21 December 2017
Date last modified:	02 March 2018 (Minor Typos – AGS)
Revision History:	
Next Revision Due:	December 2020
TRIM File Reference	SUB/85167

UNDER REVIEW