



Elements of exemplary academic integrity policy

The core elements of exemplary academic integrity policy identified in the Academic integrity standards project is based on analysis of online academic integrity policy of 39 Australian universities. The aim is to begin a dialogue which will encourage a more nuanced and effective understanding of academic integrity in the Australian higher education context. An overarching commitment to academic integrity lies at the heart of an exemplary academic integrity policy. The five elements of exemplary academic integrity policy are detailed below:

Access: The policy is easy to locate, easy to read, well written, clear and concise. The policy uses comprehensible language, logical headings, provides links to relevant resources and the entire policy is downloadable as in an easy to print and read document.

Support:

- Systems are in place to enable implementation of the academic integrity policy including procedures, resources, modules, training, seminars, and professional development activities to facilitate staff and student awareness and understanding of policy.
- Proactive measures to educate students about academic writing and referencing conventions as well as practical strategies to prevent breaches of academic integrity.
- Enabling strategies *enact* the policy. Without long-term, sustainable and practical support resources, a policy will not be enacted, no matter how well it is articulated.



Approach: Academic integrity is viewed as an educative process and appears in the introductory material to provide a context for the policy. There is a clear statement of purpose and values with a genuine and coherent institutional commitment to academic integrity through all aspects of the policy.

Stakeholders: The policy has a clear outline of responsibilities for all relevant stakeholders, including university management, academic and professional staff, and students.

Detail:

- The best policy incorporates simple flow charts to demonstrate how the policy is enacted in practice.
- Processes are detailed with a clear list of objective outcomes, and the contextual factors relevant to academic integrity breach decisions are outlined.
- The policy provides a detailed description of a range of academic integrity breaches and explains those breaches using easy to understand classifications or levels of severity.
- Details of how breaches are identified (such as through the use of text-matching software) are provided.
- Extensive but not excessive detail is provided in relation to reporting, recording, confidentiality and the appeals process.

Activity

How would you rate your university's academic integrity policy on the 5 core elements?

Please indicate your agreement or disagreement with each statement.

Core Elements	Strongly Agree 5 points	Agree 4 points	Neither Agree nor Disagree 3 points	Disagree 2 points	Strongly Disagree 1 point
The policy is easy to locate, read, concise, comprehensible (Access)					
There is statement of purpose in the policy with educative focus up front and all through policy (Approach)					
The policy details responsibilities for all stakeholders (Responsibility)					
The policy has an extensive but not excessive description of breaches, outcomes and processes (Detail)					
The policy includes proactive and embedded systems to enable implementation of the policy (Support)					

Calculate your overall rating by adding the points for your rating of each core element

Overall score 0-9 points: The policy has little strength

10-14 points: The policy has some strength

15-20 points: The policy is strong

21-25 points: The policy is very strong