



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Plagiarism, Collusion, and Cheating (Academic Misconduct)		
Version 1.3	Issued on 08/07/2023	Review by 08/07/2024
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Approval and Endorsement	Principal Executive Officer - khalid.h@aiit.vic.edu.au	
Refer to the following Legislative Frameworks		
Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015	Clause 1.1, Clause 1.3, Clause 1.4 and Clause 1.8 to Clause 1.12	
Other	Copyright Act 1968 Equal Opportunity Act 2004 (Vic)	
Related Documents (Internal)		
5 -Systematic Validation Plan and Schedule Assessment System: Student Guides and Assessment Workbooks, Trainer Guides Australian International Institute of Technology Orientation Presentation and Materials Australian International Institute of Technology Employee Handbook (Undertaking Assessment) Australian International Institute of Technology Student Handbook Form: Intervention Form: Student Consultation Record Form: Student at Risk Letter: Academic Misconduct Warning Policy and Procedure: Assessment Policy and Procedure: Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure: Training and Assessment Strategies and Practices Policy and Procedure: Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement Policy and Procedure: Validation Policy and Procedure: Work Placement, Work Based Learning and Work Based Training Recognition of Prior Learning Skills Recognition Kits as per registered scope Trainer and Assessor Report (Template) Register (Academic Misconduct) Register (Continuous Improvement) Register (Systematic Validation and Schedule) Validation Tool (Checklist)		
Related Documents (External)		
ASQA's Fact Sheet on Conducting Validation NCVER Glossary of VET Table 1.8-1: Principles of assessment Table 1.8-2: Rules of evidence		

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1. Purpose

Students at Australian International Institute of Technology expected to conduct their studies honestly, ethically and in harmony with the accepted academic standard. Any form of non-compliance or breach of such standards could result in penalties which may have severe impact on the student's academic future.

The aim of this policy is to foster cultures and practices that would enable Australian International Institute of Technology's students to conduct themselves professionally and ethically when they enter the work force.

2. Scope

This policy and procedure applies to all Australian International Institute of Technology's student's undertaking training and assessment in Nationally Recognised Training products, qualifications, accredited courses, skill sets or units of competency. Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty and integrity in all assessment tasks submitted and in any other assessment activities designated by the Trainer and Assessor of the assessment undertaken.

3. Definitions

Assessment - the process of gathering and judging evidence to decide whether a person has achieved a standard or objective.

Cheating - in a written or oral assessment task conducted in a class test environment is to seek to obtain an unfair advantage in that assessment task.

Collusion - is an understanding or agreement between two or more people to intentionally cooperate to gain an unfair advantage in assessment.

Plagiarism - is defined as taking someone else's words, ideas or materials and presenting them as your own.

Referencing - is defined as a standardized method of acknowledging the sources of information, ideas, and other material used in a submission in response to an assessment task. Australian International Institute of Technology uses the *APA Referencing Style* in all assessment tasks

4. General Guidelines

Australian International Institute of Technology requires that all students complete all assessments and provide assessment evidence ethically and without Academic Misconduct notably plagiarism, collusion, and cheating.

The Academic Manager and Trainer and Assessors will ensure that academic integrity is maintained in all learning and assessment activities by providing information to students to ensure they understand what constitutes plagiarism, collusion, and cheating and what will be the outcome if they undertake such practice.

Australian International Institute of Technology has the following definitions for plagiarism, collusion, and cheating:

- **Plagiarism** - plagiarism is the submission of somebody else's work as if it were the student's own. This may include copying all or part of another person's thoughts or ideas and representing them as your own. If a student fails to identify the original source of some or all the submission this also constitutes plagiarism. If a student copies another student's work and passes this off as their own, then this is also a form of plagiarism and cheating.

During Assessment students will read about ideas and gather information from many sources. When students use these ideas in Assessments, they must identify who produced them and in what publications they were found. If students do not do this, they are plagiarizing. If students are including other peoples' work in submissions e.g. passages from books or websites, then reference, using the ***APA Referencing Style***, should be made to the source.

- **Collusion** - this is the presentation by a student of an assignment as his or her own which is the result of unauthorized collaboration with another person or persons. Collusion involves the cooperation of two or more students in plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct or cheating. Both collusion and plagiarism can occur in group work.
- **Cheating** - this is the use of any means to gain an unfair advantage during the assessment process. Cheating may include copying a friend's answers, using mobile phones or other electronic devices during closed book assessments, bringing in and referring to pre-prepared written answers in a closed book assessment and referring to texts during closed book assessments amongst others.

Where it is found that plagiarism, collusion, and cheating has occurred, this will result in the student's assessment submission being invalidated and student's will be investigated for academic misconduct.

5. Process

5.1 Australian International Institute of Technology will:

- Ensure employee awareness of Australian International Institute of Technology *plagiarism, collusion and cheating policy and procedure*.
- Inform students during Orientation and at the commencement of each unit of competency of Australian International Institute of Technology policy and procedures regarding academic misconduct and plagiarism.
- Provide instructions for students on how to avoid plagiarism, collusion, and cheating including in the *Student Handbook* and in each unit of competency *Student Guide*.
- Provide training workshops educating students on Assessment preparation highlighting examples of appropriate referencing techniques and practices.

5.2 Student responsibilities will be to:

- Read, comprehend, respect, and comply with Australian International Institute of Technology's policy and procedures regarding plagiarism, collusion, and cheating.
- Seek the required knowledge and skills and make sure that the appropriate academic referencing technique is used in all assessment tasks.
- Ensure that they reference and acknowledge all the work done by others before submitting any assessment tasks.
- Ensure that work is not copied intentionally or unintentionally by other fellow students.
- Seek assistance from appropriate lecturers if students are not sure about the proper way of referencing or academic work preparation.
- Ensuring all *Assessment Task Cover Sheets* and *Student Declarations* are filled out, signed, and submitted together with all completed assessment responses and supporting evidence.

6. Procedures for Suspected Academic Misconduct

6.1 First Offence

If the Trainer and Assessor believes that there is evidence of plagiarism, collusion or cheating in the assessment work submitted by a student or evidence that cheating, collusion or any other academic misconduct has occurred then the Trainer and Assessor should take the following steps:

- Document the perceived offence in the *Student at Risk Form* and submit the completed form with the Assessment Evidence to the Academic Manager.
- Request in writing the student involved in the alleged academic misconduct to attend a meeting with the Academic Manager.
- The Academic Manager should discuss, in the meeting, the misconduct case with the student and provide documented evidence.
- If the Academic Manager believes that the student has committed the academic misconduct act and the misconduct is substantial and the student admits to the offence, the Academic Manager will:

- Forward an *Academic Misconduct Warning Letter* to the students. The letter will be kept in the students' record and if it is repeated, further actions will be taken.
- The student will be required to redo and resubmit a new Assessment Task.
- If the student did not admit to the Academic misconduct, then they can appeal within **ten (10) working days** of being notified about the penalty decision, using the Complaints and Appeals process.

6.2 Second Offence

If the student repeated the academic misconduct act, the Trainer and Assessor provided the evidence and the student admitted the offence, then the student will receive a second warning letter from the Academic Manager and the student will be given a *Not Satisfactory (NS)* judgment for the assessment task.

If the student disagrees with the decision, they can appeal within **ten (10) working days** of being notified of the penalty decision using the *Complaints and Appeals process*.

6.3 Third Offence

If the student repeated the academic misconduct for the third time, the student will be issued the final warning letter and will be judged *Not Yet Competent (NYC)* in the unit of competency.

If the student disagrees with the decision, they can appeal within **ten (10) working days** of being notified of the penalty decision using the *Complaints and Appeals process*.

6.4 Expulsion from the Course

If the student is found to have committed the academic misconduct after the Third Offence, the Academic Manager will report the case to Australian International Institute of Technology' Chief Executive Officer (CEO) with a recommendation to expel and remove the student from the course.

If all the evidence is clear and sound, Australian International Institute of Technology's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) will approve the recommended penalty and that will be shown in the student's academic record and personal file.

7. Academic Misconduct Appeal Process

If student believes that their work was not plagiarised or an Academic Misconduct was not committed, an Appeal must be lodged in writing to the Student Service Manager or email to admin@aiit.vic.edu.au, within **ten (10) days** of being notified about the above decision. If the student intends to appeal the decision of the Academic Misconduct, they must provide supporting evidence to substantiate their case and are entitled to bring an advocate.

The student's Appeal Application will be forwarded to the Academic Manager. For the First, Second and Third offences, Academic Manager will discuss the cases. Should the student commit further offences after the Third Offence, the Appeal Application will be presented to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

8. Responsibility

Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty and integrity in all assessment tasks submitted and in any other assessments activities designated by the Trainer and Assessor of the assessment undertaken.

Trainers and Assessors are responsible for:

- Preparing for assessment following *the principles of assessment (validity, reliability, flexibility, and fairness)*
- Planning and preparing the evidence-gathering process
- Inform students at the commencement of each unit of competency of Australian International Institute of Technology policy and procedures regarding academic misconduct and plagiarism.
- Collecting the evidence following *the rules of evidence (sufficiency, validity, authenticity, and currency)*

- Making the final Assessment Judgement and Decision.
- Identifying breaches of Academic Misconduct

The Academic Manager is responsible for the effective implementation and management of this policy as well as provision of information on how to resolve complaints of breaches of this policy.

Any complaints or breaches in relation to this policy should be reported to the Chief Executive Officer in person or by email to ceo@aiit.vic.edu.au.

9. References

Source	Document Title	Version - Date
	Authorship: Guide	PDF
	Copyright Act 1968 https://www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C1968A00063	1968
	Equal Opportunity Act 2004 (Vic) https://www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au/home/the-law/equal-opportunity-act	2004
	IP Legislation Australia https://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/about-us/legislation/ip-legislation	(Accessed 01/07/2023)
	the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 (National Code 2018)	2018
	National Privacy Principles (NPP) https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/australian-privacy-principles/read-the-australian-privacy-principles/	PDF
	NCVER Glossary of VET https://www.voced.edu.au/vet-knowledge-bank-glossary-vet-terms	(Accessed 01/07/2023)
	Privacy Act 1988	1988
	Standards or Registered Training Organisations 2015	2015
	Table 1.8-1: Principles of assessment	(Accessed 01/07/2023)
	Table 1.8-2: Rules of evidence	(Accessed 01/07/2023)
	Users' Guide to the Standards for RTOs 2015 - Clause 1.8 to 1.12 https://www.asqa.gov.au/standards/training-assessment/clauses-1.8-to-1.12	(Accessed 01/07/2023)

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