

Monash University Procedure

Procedure Title	Student Academic Integrity: Managing Plagiarism and Collusion Procedures
Parent Policy	Student Academic Integrity Policy
Date Effective	21-February-2014
Review Date	21-February-2017
Procedure Owner	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)
Category	Academic Quality and Standards
Version Number	1.4
Content Enquiries	Education Policy Unit
Scope	All campuses Coursework students
Purpose	To ensure the University takes a consistent approach to academic integrity among students to protect and enhance the University's reputation and academic standards.
PROCEDURE STATEMENT	

Monash University is committed to promoting academic integrity practices across its learning community. To this end, the University supports the development of student academic integrity skills through a range of approaches, which include both discipline specific education, as well as making available University-wide resources through the Library and providing access to tools that support good academic practice.

Plagiarism and Collusion

Plagiarism means to take and use another person's ideas and or manner of expressing them and to pass them off as one's own by failing to give appropriate acknowledgement, including the use of material from any source, staff, students or the Internet, published and unpublished works.

Plagiarism occurs when students fail to acknowledge that the ideas or work of others are being used. Specifically it occurs when:

- other people's work and/or ideas are paraphrased and presented without a reference;
- other people's work is copied either in whole or in part;
- other people's designs, codes or images are presented as the student's own work;
- phrases and passages are used verbatim without quotation marks and/or without a reference to the author or a web page; or
- lecture notes are reproduced without due acknowledgement.

For more information on using references correctly; paraphrasing; and techniques for appropriately summarising an author's ideas please see the Library's [Academic Integrity tutorials](#).

Collusion means unauthorised collaboration on assessable written, oral or practical work with another person or persons.

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Collusion occurs when a student works with others to produce work, which is then presented as the student's own work, or the work of the other person(s). Collusion includes when a student without the authorisation of staff involved in the teaching of a unit:

- works with one or more people to prepare and produce work;
- allows others to copy their work or shares their answer to an assessment task;
- allows someone else to write (with the exception of instances where the use of a scribe is approved by the Disability Liaison Unit) or edit their work (noting that proofreading is acceptable, provided it is compliant with the University's definition contained in the Academic Integrity Policy);
- writes or edits work for another student; or
- offers to complete work or seek payment for completing academic work for other students.

Collusion may be with a Monash student or a person or student external to the University. Collusion may be for Monash work or for work for a student external to the University.

Implementation

A [flowchart](#) has been developed to assist staff who suspect a breach of the Student Academic Integrity Policy in student work. The flowchart should always be read in conjunction with these Procedures.

Communication

1. Faculties must adhere to the University's definition of plagiarism. Links to the Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures must be incorporated into key University websites. In addition, faculties will provide students with statements that explain the nature of plagiarism as it applies to the faculty's fields and disciplines. Faculties will inform students of assistance in and advice available for developing academic skills, such as essay writing, note-taking and the appropriate use and acknowledgement of sources, including referencing and citation techniques.
2. As part of their orientation to a course, students will be advised of the Student Academic Integrity Policy and Student Academic Integrity: Managing Plagiarism and Collusion Procedures and the provisions in Part 7 of the Monash University (Council) Regulations. Chief Examiners will take steps to educate students in the skills and knowledge required to develop good academic practice in essay writing, note taking and research skills. For further guidance, refer to the University's Academic Integrity Guidelines [forthcoming].
3. Students will be encouraged to complete [online skills development](#) in academic integrity at the commencement of their studies and on a regular basis throughout their studies.

Responsibility

Associate Deans (Education)
Chief Examiners

4. Staff involved in assessment will explain the meaning of collusion and will give students clear instructions as to whether they are permitted to work on an assignment jointly and what forms of collaboration are appropriate. For group-based tasks, details of how the individual and group performance will be judged should be provided in line with the [Unit Assessment Procedures](#).

Responsibility

Staff involved in unit assessment

5. Students are required to submit, with their work to be assessed, an [Assessment Cover Sheet](#) for non-examination assessment which includes:
 - the approved definition of plagiarism;

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- a statement on collusion;
 - the approved Privacy Statement;
 - a declaration by the student:
 - a. that plagiarism, collusion or any other breach of requirements in the Student Academic Integrity Policy has not occurred;
 - b. whether the assessment task is original or has been previously submitted as part of another unit/subject/course;
 - c. that proper care to safeguard their work and all reasonable efforts to ensure it could not be copied were taken;
 - d. that the assessor of the assignment may for the purposes of assessment, reproduce the assignment and:
 - provide it to another member of faculty and/or any external marker; and/or
 - submit it to a text matching/originality checking software; and/or
 - submit it to a text matching/originality checking software (which may then retain a copy of the assignment on its database for the purpose of future checking of plagiarism);
 - e. that they [the student] understand the consequences of engaging in plagiarism as described in Part 7 of the [Monash University \(Council\) Regulations](#).
6. Cover sheet submission may be in hard copy or electronically via a "click through" window in a password protected University portal where students upload their assignments. Work not accompanied by a cover sheet will not be accepted, with the exception of shorter assignments or tests that are carried out and submitted in class.
7. For a series of shorter assignments, it may be appropriate to have students submit a cover sheet with the first assignment, explicitly noting that it applies to further assignment submissions in the unit for the study period. These cover sheets should be retained until the end of semester, even if the assignment(s) is returned to the student.

Responsibility

Students

8. Staff must endeavour to design student work tasks to minimise the likelihood of breaches of academic integrity. Staff involved in teaching and unit assessment must also implement methods to prevent and detect breaches of the Student Academic Integrity Policy. Options include, but are not limited to:
- random sampling of submitted assessment tasks to check for similarities;
 - comparing a student's performance across a number of tasks; and
 - requiring students to defend submitted assessment tasks (e.g. by oral examination or seminar presentation).
9. Staff may take steps to detect breaches of academic integrity, which may include the use of text or other matching software and other methods to compare work submitted against various databases, including the internet, electronic reference materials and other students' work submitted.
10. Staff may provide access to text or other matching software for students prior to submission of an assessment task, which will enable students to conduct their own academic integrity checks. Staff may limit the number of times that a student may use such software with regards to each task.

Responsibility

Staff involved in unit assessment

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Suspected Breaches of the Student Academic Integrity Policy

11. When a breach of the Student Academic Integrity Policy, such as plagiarism or collusion, is suspected, an academic staff member involved in unit assessment is required to inform the student(s) (at the Sunway campus, students must be informed in writing) of the suspected conduct, identify the passages/work which are alleged to be in breach, as well as its source, and ask the student(s) to respond. The staff member will also report the matter to the Chief Examiner (or nominee). If it is alleged that an Internet site is the source of the breach, the relevant material must be printed out with a time stamp in case the site is changed. Originality or similarity reports should be printed and retained if automated text (or other) matching software is being used.

Responsibility

Staff involved in unit assessment

12. Before the Chief Examiner (or nominee) makes a decision as to whether the breach was likely to have been intentional or reckless, the Chief Examiner (or nominee) must inform the student of the conduct suspected (at the Sunway campus, students must be informed in writing) and give them an opportunity to respond. This may be done by calling the student to a meeting, and giving them particulars of the alleged breach. A support person may attend such meetings with the student at the student's request. At the Sunway campus, this person must be a Sunway staff member or student. The student should be informed of the provisions of the [Monash University \(Council\) Regulations](#) as to what penalties may be applied if a breach is found to have occurred. If the student is unable to attend a meeting, particulars of the breach should be put to the student in writing, and the student should be asked to respond within 10 working days from receipt of the written communication (see [sample letter or notification](#)).

Responsibility

Chief Examiner (or nominee)

Student

13. If satisfied that a breach of academic integrity took place, the Chief Examiner (or nominee) is then required to decide whether or not they believe that the breach was likely to have been intentional or reckless. There are a number of factors that might be taken into consideration when deciding this. For example, in the following scenarios it may be more likely that the breach was not intentional or reckless:

- the student is in the first year of the course and has not received a prior warning that is recorded on the Academic Integrity Warnings Register;
- the instructions about collaboration were not clear;
- the student is from an educational background where different norms apply for the acknowledgement of sources;
- a negligible amount has been plagiarised; or
- the collusion was trivial in its extent and/or impact on the work.

The breach of academic integrity may be more likely to have been intentional or reckless when:

- the student has made an inadequate attempt at referencing;
- clear instructions about collaboration were given;
- the student has demonstrated in other tasks the ability to reference correctly;
- the students in the cohort were given information on how to acknowledge extracts and quotations. The student was present/received written information and knew that the use of material without acknowledgement was unacceptable; or
- the student had received a prior warning about plagiarism or collusion, or has been disciplined for plagiarism or collusion.

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Responsibility

Chief Examiner (or nominee)

Plagiarism or Collusion that is not Intentional or Reckless

14. Should the Chief Examiner (or nominee) have reasonable grounds to find that the breach of academic integrity was not intentional or reckless, a decision on the course of action to be taken will be made within 10 working days. If the breach was not intentional or reckless, the only offence the student has committed is an academic error of failing to reference a source correctly. Corrective action may be required to ensure that the student does not gain an unfair advantage in assessment as a result of the breach. Depending on the extent of the breach, the time that has passed and the circumstances, possible actions may include:
- loss of marks allocated for correct referencing;
 - in marking the work, the examiner excises parts that contain plagiarised material; or
 - the student may be required to resubmit the work in whole or in part.
15. Warnings and outcomes must be communicated in writing (see [standard warning letter](#)) to the student and will be kept on a register (see Academic Integrity Warnings Register). Students will be advised that copies of the letters will be retained on the register in accordance with these procedures.

Responsibility

Chief Examiner (or nominee)

16. If found to have breached the University's Student Academic Integrity Policy, but not intentionally or recklessly, students are required to participate in additional academic skills development. In the first instance, teaching staff should work with students directly to address identified gaps in the student(s)' understanding of academic integrity that may have led to the breach. Teaching staff may contact the [Library](#) for further advice on academic skills development and may choose, as part of this consultation, to refer the matter to Library staff. Students who are referred to the Library should bring a completed referral letter (see: [sample referral letter from Chief Examiner \(or nominee\) to Library](#)) with them. Library staff will provide verification of subsequent skills development to the Chief Examiner (see: [sample letter from Library to Chief Examiner \(or nominee\)](#)).

Responsibility

Staff involved in unit assessment
Chief Examiner (or nominee)
University Librarian
Students

Intentional or Reckless Plagiarism or Collusion

17. Before the Chief Examiner (or nominee) determines that an intentional or reckless breach of academic integrity has occurred, they must consider the student's response (if any) to the allegation. If the Chief Examiner has delegated to a nominee the task of obtaining the student's response, the Chief Examiner must ensure that they have a detailed and accurate record of the response.

Responsibility

Chief Examiner (or nominee)
Student

18. If the student fails to respond to an allegation of intentional plagiarism or collusion, or if their response does not satisfy the Chief Examiner (or nominee) that the breach of academic integrity was not intentional or reckless, the Chief Examiner (or nominee) will report the matter to the Associate Dean of the teaching faculty and provide evidence of the suspected breach of academic integrity.

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Responsibility

Chief Examiner (or nominee)

19. Once the suspected intentional plagiarism or collusion has been reported, the Associate Dean of the teaching faculty (or nominee) must consider the matter in accordance with Part 7 of the Monash University (Council) Regulations. The University's [Student Discipline Guidelines](#) provide guidance on dealing with suspected breaches of the Regulations, including the powers of the Associate Dean to deal with the matter or to refer it to a faculty discipline panel to hear and determine.

Responsibility

Associate Dean of the teaching faculty (or nominee)

Academic Integrity Warnings Register

20. A register will be maintained to record:

- warnings that have been given to students about plagiarism or collusion, even where no formal action has been taken or penalty applied;
- penalties applied and the nature of those penalties.

21. Records within the register will be retained for seven years (if no disciplinary action was taken) or 15 years (where a penalty or disciplinary action was incurred) from the date of the decision. Student records within the register will be treated in accordance with the University's [Privacy of Student Records Policy](#).

Responsibility

Associate Dean of the teaching faculty

22. The register will be accessible only to staff authorised by Deans and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) or delegate. Where requested, students will have access to their details recorded in the register.

Responsibility

Deans

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) or delegate

Academic Integrity and Technology

23. In line with the [Acceptable Use of Information Technology Facilities by Students Procedures](#), students are not permitted to use Information and Communications Technology facilities to sell, purchase or offer to write assignments or other assessable work, or to request help with such work. Furthermore, students are required to take steps to minimise opportunities for others to cheat by, for example, not saving work to a shared network drive that is accessible by others and not sharing work on social media sites. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in disciplinary action under Part 7 of the Monash University (Council) Regulations for collusion or general misconduct, as appropriate in the circumstances.

Responsibility

Students

24. Students should be aware that the University will monitor and act on information received about the use of cheat sites, paper mills and other online resources that promote dishonest academic conduct. If a student has been found to have used any of these sources to breach the Student Academic Integrity Policy, the University will pursue the matter in accordance with Part 7 of the Monash University (Council) Regulations.

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Responsibility

Students
Staff involved in assessment

Responsibility for implementation	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) Associate Deans (Education) Heads of academic units Chief Examiners Faculty Manager All staff involved in assessment and supervision All students
Status	Revised
Approval Body	Name: Academic Board Meeting: 3/13 Date: 05-June-2013 Agenda item: 11.3
Definitions	<p>Academic integrity: is the moral code of academia. It involves using, generating and communicating information in an ethical, honest and responsible manner.</p> <p>Academic misconduct: means conduct by which a student seeks to gain for himself, herself or another person an unfair or unjustified academic advantage in a course or unit of study and includes, cheating, collusion and plagiarism. It may be intentional or reckless.</p> <p>Cheat/Cheating: means to seek to obtain an unfair advantage in an examination or written, oral or practical work, required to be submitted or completed for assessment in a course or unit of study and includes the resubmission of work that has already been assessed in another unit.</p> <p>Collusion: means unauthorised collaboration on assessable written, oral or practical work with another person or persons.</p> <p>Plagiarism: means to take and use another person's ideas and or manner of expressing them and to pass them off as one's own by failing to give appropriate acknowledgement, including the use of material from any source, staff, students or the Internet, published and unpublished works.</p> <p>Proofreading: The process of identifying errors and suggesting corrections to a text. This must not involve rewriting passages of text in order to clarify meaning; amending the words used by the author (except to identify the correct spelling of the word used); rearranging passages of text or code, or reformatting other material; contributing additional material to the original; and checking calculations or formulae.</p>
Legislation Mandating Compliance	Monash University (Council) Regulations - Part 7 Student Discipline Regulations (Monash Australia and Monash South Africa)

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	Student Discipline Regulations (Monash University Sunway Campus Malaysia) National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 (Cth)
Related Policies	<p>Acceptable Use of Information Technology Facilities by Students Policy and Procedures</p> <p>Assessment in Coursework Programs Policy and Unit Assessment Procedures</p> <p>Special Consideration Policy and Procedures</p> <p>Grading Scale Policy and Procedures</p> <p>Privacy of Student Records Policy and Procedures</p>
Related Documents	<p>Monash University Student Charter</p> <p>Student Discipline Guidelines</p> <p>Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research</p> <p>Monash University Ethics Statement</p> <p>Student Academic Integrity Flowchart</p> <p>Academic Integrity Guidelines [forthcoming]</p>