

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY AND PROCEDURE

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References and Legislation	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards (TEQSA) Act 2011 (Cth); Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015; Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (Cth); Education Services for Overseas Students Regulations 2001; The National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 (National Code 2018); and the Higher Education Support Act 2003 (Cth).		
Related Documents	APIC Constitution, APIC Governance Charter, ECA Staff Code of Conduct, Student Grievances and Appeals Policy		
Version	Change description	Approved	Effective Date
1.2 & 1.3		21 July 2017	July 2017
2.0	Updated to provide more clarity. Introduced Contract Cheating. Section 9 updated to align with the new academic structure. New Section 11 introduced	Academic Board 18 October 2018	30 October 2018
3.0	Reviewed and updated to include the requirement for students to complete the Academic Integrity Module	Academic Board 06 February 2020	26 February 2020
3.1	Imbed Academic Integrity Module into selected units	Academic Board 28 May 2020	05 June 2020
3.2	Revised definitions and processes for dealing with breaches	Academic Board 6 October 2020	20 January 2021
3.3	Updated to include mention of file-sharing and inappropriate use of paraphrasing tools	Academic Board 30 September 2022	3 Oct 2022

1. Purpose

Asia Pacific International College (APIC) is committed to upholding the principles of academic integrity and ethical scholarship and ensuring that there is a clear understanding of expectations relating to the avoidance of academic misconduct.

The purpose of this Policy is to define and describe the actions that constitute academic misconduct, the College's processes for investigating allegations of academic misconduct, and the range of penalties that may be applied where allegations are proven.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to all enrolled students participating in all courses of study at APIC and all staff related to academic activities associated with their employment at APIC.

3. Definitions

Item	Definition
<i>Academic Activity</i>	Includes and is not limited to developing, delivering, attending, or otherwise participating in lectures, tutorials, or other delivery modes (e.g., internships); planning, producing, supervising research; or otherwise sharing knowledge, experience, or skills with others.
<i>Academic Integrity</i>	Actions aligned with values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility in learning, teaching, and research.
<i>Academic misconduct</i>	Any dishonest or inappropriate behavior by a student in an assessment task or other academic activity including and not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>cheating</i> and <i>contract cheating</i>; • <i>collusion</i>; • <i>fraud</i>; or • <i>plagiarism</i>
<i>Acknowledgement practice</i>	The act of acknowledging the ideas, designs, words, or works of other people in your work. Also known as 'attribution' or 'referencing.'
<i>Allegation</i>	An assertion of misconduct made against a student.
<i>Cheating</i>	An express form of academic misconduct including and not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bringing in, or having access to unauthorised materials or information during a quiz, test, or examination; • contacting or <i>colluding</i> with another person or persons via any means (including verbal, physical, gestural or electronic) during an examination or another form of invigilated assessment; • copying or reading another student's work; or • allowing another student to copy or read from your work.
<i>Contract Cheating</i>	Contract cheating is a form of academic dishonesty which involves procuring academic work from a third party and submitting the work as your own. Contract cheating involves but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • purchase an assignment from an online source; • pay someone to write a test or exam; • obtain assistance from someone else beyond mere editing to writing an assignment or solving of the problem; • participate in an unauthorized discussion group or sharing answers to an assignment on file-sharing sites or even social media sites; or • post or purchase answers to an exam, assignment, problem, or any other assessed work.
<i>Collaboration</i>	Academic activity is undertaken by and attributed to two or more persons. Additionally, in the case of students' work, with the knowledge and consent of the lecturer. Collaboration is expressly not a form of academic misconduct or dishonesty.
<i>Collusion</i>	An express form of academic misconduct constituting an agreement between two or more persons to act together secretly or without express permission to achieve an unfair academic advantage. Includes inciting others to engage in academic misconduct.
<i>Exclusion</i>	Permanent cancellation of a student's enrolment in their course and the termination of their rights and privileges as a student of APIC, including their right to re-apply for admission.

Item	Definition
<i>Fraud</i>	An express form of academic misconduct or professional dishonesty including and not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impersonating another person or engaging someone else to impersonate another person during the conduct of an academic activity; • misrepresenting, falsifying, mis-stating or fabricating data during the conduct of an academic activity; • submitting academic work produced by another person(s) as one's own; • failing to attribute work completed by another person(s) in the completion of an academic activity • giving or providing for sale your work to another person(s), company, or website to make such work available for copying or use by another person(s); or • the use of knowingly deceptive means in the attempt to avoid an academic penalty.
<i>Paraphrasing</i>	The use of one's own words to express the words, works, or ideas of another author or source while still preserving the original author's meaning or source.
<i>Plagiarism</i>	An express form of academic misconduct involving the use of intellectual material produced by another person without acknowledging the original author or source. Plagiarism can be unintentional or intentional and is distinguished from incomplete attempts to acknowledge the words, works, or ideas of another author or source.
<i>Professional honesty</i>	Professional honesty is a fundamental principle that underpins the reliability and credibility of all professional activities. It includes but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dealing transparently and fairly within all professional and business relationships; • building relationships based on mutual respect and trust; • acting ethically and within the law; • not being associated with information that contains materially false or misleading statements; and • accepting responsibility for one's actions.
<i>Suspension</i>	Temporary cancellation of a student's enrolment in a unit of study or course.

4. Principles of Academic Integrity and Professional Honesty

4.1 The following principles form the foundation for this Policy.

- APIC is committed to academic integrity, honesty, and ethical scholarship.
- APIC will ensure that all students are informed about this Policy.
- It is the responsibility of all students and staff members to familiarize themselves with this Academic Integrity policy. Individuals are obliged to consciously ensure that their acts or omissions do not constitute or facilitate breaches of academic integrity or professional honesty.

- Assessment design and scheduling will be such as to promote creative thought and reflection and minimise opportunities for students to engage in acts of academic misconduct.
- When identified, acts of academic misconduct or professional dishonesty will be dealt with according to this Policy and with regards to procedural fairness, the context within which the act occurred, and equity and consistency in applying any disciplinary action.
- Where appropriate, an educative – as opposed to a punitive – response to (minor) acts of academic misconduct may be recommended. The determination of any response to an act of academic misconduct or professional dishonesty will be ultimately guided by this Policy.
- Allegations of professional dishonesty by staff will be responded to in accordance with the ECA Staff Code of Conduct.

5. Student Responsibilities

5.1 APIC students are expected to:

- successfully complete the Academic Integrity Module within the first three weeks of their study at APIC (see Section 7)
- familiarise themselves with all related procedures and policies;
- submit only original work which properly acknowledges the ideas, designs, words, or works of others;
- not submit another person's work as their own;
- not purchase or commission work and submit as if it were their own;
- not submit work created with the assistance of others, except in the case of collaboration in connection with group work assessment;
- not share exam/quiz questions and assessments, including exchanging files among classmates internally or uploading or downloading through a third-party platform and/or social media;
- not use artificial intelligence writing/paraphrasing tools to gain unfair advantage in submitted work;
- submit an electronic copy of any assessment through APIC's text-matching software;
- declare that work submitted for an assessment is their own through the Academic Integrity Declaration; (refer Section 12. Academic Integrity Declaration);
- use the acknowledgement practice methods that are appropriate for their field of study;
- not lend, or allow to be otherwise provided, their original work to other students for any reason except collaboration in connection with group work assessment; and
- encourage other students to uphold the principles of academic integrity and professional honesty.

6. Staff Responsibilities

6.1 All staff are expected to:

- cultivate a climate of respect for authorship with students;
- inform all students of acknowledgement practice methods that are appropriate for their field of study and provide clear examples of what is acceptable;

- clearly explain academic expectations and what constitutes plagiarism, collusion, cheating, and other forms of academic misconduct to students;
- clearly communicate to students the potential consequences of breaches of academic integrity and professional honesty;
- actively seek to discourage, detect and prevent plagiarism by supporting students to acquire and demonstrate the principles of academic integrity and professional honesty;
- respond appropriately to all instances of academic misconduct in keeping with this Policy and any related documents; and
- exemplify the values of academic primacy, academic freedom with responsibility, and rigor and integrity in all research and scholarly activities they undertake.

7. Academic Integrity Module

- 7.1 To ensure that students understand academic integrity, all APIC students are required to successfully complete the Academic Integrity Module (AIM) early in their first study period through the first assessment task of a designated unit at APIC. Advanced standing for the designated unit will only be granted on the condition that the student successfully completes the AIM.
- 7.2 The AIM provides students with information about their academic integrity responsibilities, the importance of proper acknowledgement and referencing, and how to avoid plagiarism and other types of academic misconduct. To successfully complete the module, students must complete the AIM quiz and achieve a score of 100%. Students may repeat the AIM and quiz as many times as needed until successfully completed.
- 7.3 A student who fails to complete the module successfully will have 10 percentage points deducted from the mark awarded for the first assessment task in the unit in which the AIM is imbedded. Students who have not successfully completed the AIM by the completion of their first study period will not be permitted to enroll in any further units. The Dean may waive either condition in special circumstances.
- 7.4 In accordance with Section 5, Student Responsibilities, of the APIC Assessment Policy, students are responsible for submitting all assessment tasks in accordance with the requirements set out in the relevant Unit of Study Guide and for ensuring compliance with this Policy. (see Section 12)

8. Level 1 Academic Misconduct

8.1 Definition and Scope

Level 1 academic misconduct refers to unintentional academic misconduct that has generally occurred because of inexperience or lack of knowledge of the principles and requirements of academic integrity or arising from carelessness rather than a deliberate act of deception. Level 1 breaches are generally restricted to students who are relatively new and inexperienced in academic practice.

- 8.2 APIC recognises that, in some cases, it is more appropriate to consider a Level 1 breaches an educational matter, allowing the student the opportunity to learn from their mistake and subsequently minimise the likelihood of future breaches.

- 8.3 Level 1 breaches are any matter in an assessment task, where:
- misconduct appears unintentional and no attempt by the student to gain any unfair academic advantage;
 - the student has not previously been found guilty of substantial academic misconduct or minor academic misconduct while enrolled as a student of the College;
 - the misconduct is of lesser scale or scope than Level 2 and Level 3 academic misconduct; and
 - the misconduct is of a minimal threat to the integrity of assessment in relation to the unit of study concerned.

NOTE: For a matter to be classified as Level 1 breach, the student must acknowledge the breach and the facts that gave rise to the allegation.

- 8.4 Examples of Level one breaches may include, but are not limited to:
- inadequate referencing; and/or
 - inappropriate collaboration; and/or
 - poor use of citations; and/or
 - poor paraphrasing.

8.5 Process for dealing with Alleged Level 1 Breaches

Level 1 breaches should be dealt with by the tutor and Unit Coordinator. The resolution should have an educational focus designed to prevent further breaches by the student.

Processes for dealing with allegations at this level are:

- 8.5.1 If the alleged breach is detected by a tutor other than the Unit Coordinator,
- a) The tutor will advise the Unit Coordinator of the situation.
 - b) With the agreement of the Unit Coordinator, the tutor will contact the student to discuss the alleged breach.
 - c) The allegation will be recorded in the Student Management System (SMS).
 - d) The tutor will report their findings and recommendations to the Unit Coordinator for approval or modification. Recommended action must be in accordance with Section 8.6. Where a modification is approved, the reason for the modification must be recorded in the SMS.
- 8.5.2 If the alleged breach is detected by a Unit Coordinator:
- a) the Unit Coordinator will contact the student to discuss the alleged breach.
 - b) The allegation will be recorded in the Student Management System.
 - c) The Unit Coordinator will determine any actions or penalties in accordance with Section 8.6.
- 8.5.3 Where a Level 1 breach is confirmed, the Unit Coordinator will provide a formal written decision to the student and advise of any subsequent action (see Section 8.6).
- 8.5.4 The breach will be recorded as a Level 1 breach in the Academic Integrity Register.
- 8.5.5 A Level 1 breach will not appear on the student's academic transcript.
- 8.5.6 Where no breach is found, the student will be advised accordingly with an appropriate notation in the Student Management System.

8.6 Penalties for Level 1 Breaches

Upon determination that a student is guilty of a Level 1 breach, one or more of the following may be imposed:

- A formal written warning;
- The requirement for the student to complete academic writing and referencing courses provided by the College;
- The requirement for the student to complete the Academic Integrity Module again;
- Option for the student to correct and resubmit the work, in whole or in part (maximum 50% mark);
- The requirement for the student to submit an additional assessment task (maximum 50% mark); and/or
- Other penalties approved by the Dean.

8.7 Failure to comply with an imposed penalty for a Level 1 breach

Where a student has been found guilty of a Level 1 breach and fails to complete an action which has been imposed, the student will receive a mark of zero for an assessment in which the breach was detected.

9. Level 2 Academic Misconduct

9.1 Definition and Scope

Level 2 academic misconduct is any act of academic misconduct which is:

- a clear or demonstrable intention to gain an unfair academic advantage;
- carefully and deliberately planned, repetitive, organised, or systematic in nature;
- in breach of the principles of academic integrity or professional honesty; or
- repeated Level 1 breaches.

Examples of Level 2 breaches include, but are not limited to:

- Repeated Level 1 breaches;
- Plagiarism and self-plagiarism;
- Contract cheating;
- Cheating in examinations, tests, and quizzes;
- Sharing assessments or exam/quiz questions, including on online file-sharing platforms (social media, websites, etc.)
- Inappropriate use of artificial intelligence writing/paraphrasing tools to gain unfair academic advantage.

9.2 Process for dealing with Alleged Level 2 Breaches

- 9.2.1 If the alleged breach is detected by a tutor other than the Unit Coordinator,
- a) The tutor will advise the Unit Coordinator of the situation.
 - b) With the agreement of the Unit Coordinator, the tutor will contact the student to discuss the alleged breach.

- c) The allegation will be recorded in the Student Management System by the Unit Coordinator.
 - d) Where the result of the investigation is a Level 2 breach, the Unit Coordinator will refer the matter to the Associate Dean (Academic Operations) with recommended action (see Section 9.3).
- 9.2.2 If the alleged breach is detected by a Unit Coordinator:
- a) the Unit Coordinator will contact the student to discuss the alleged breach.
 - b) The allegation will be recorded in the Student Management System.
 - c) Where the result of the investigation is a Level 2 breach, the Unit Coordinator will refer the matter to the Associate Dean (Academic Operations) with recommended action (see Section 9.3).
- 9.2.3 In determining whether a Level 2 breach has been made, the Associate Dean (Academic Operations) will consider the facts of the case and the procedural fairness of the process.
- 9.2.4 Where it is determined that a Level 2 breach has occurred, the student will be provided with a formal written decision, including a notice of penalty (see section 9.3). All academics involved in the matter will also be informed.
- 9.2.5 The breach will be recorded as a Level 2 breach in the Academic Integrity Register.
- 9.2.6 A Level 2 breach may appear on the student's academic transcript if this is determined as part of the penalty.
- 9.2.7 Where no breach is found, the student, the Unit Coordinator (and tutor) will be advised accordingly with an appropriate notation in the Student Management System.

9.3 Penalties for Level 2 Breaches

Upon determination that a student is guilty of a Level 2 breach, one or more of the following may be imposed:

- maximum mark of 50% to be applied on a resubmission (if permitted); or
- maximum mark of 50% to be applied on a submission of an additional assessment task (if permitted); or
- applying a mark of zero for the assessment task; or
- fail grade for a unit of study; or
- a notation on the student's record to be included on their academic transcript; or
- other penalties approved by the Dean.

NOTE: The Dean must ratify a decision to apply a penalty of a fail grade for a unit of study.

9.4 Failure to comply with an imposed penalty

Where a student has been found guilty of a level 2 breach and fails to complete an action which has been imposed, the student will receive a mark of zero for an assessment in which the breach was detected.

10. Level 3 Academic Misconduct

10.1 Definition and Scope

Level 3 breaches represent the most serious breaches of Academic Integrity that:

- compromises the interest of other students;
- the integrity of the assessment scheme itself;
- the reputation of the College, and/or
- is significant in scale or scope.

Examples of level three breaches include, but are not limited to:

- Repeated Level 2 breaches;
- Breach of academic integrity involving or resembling criminal activity, such as:
 - stealing an examination;
 - impersonation; or
 - falsifying documents.
- Breach of academic integrity in research and/or publication(s)

10.2 Process for dealing with Alleged Level 3 Breaches

- 10.2.1 If there is an alleged Level 3 breach, the Unit Coordinator (and tutor) will prepare a report and refer the matter to the Associate Dean (Academic Operations) for investigation.
- 10.2.2 The Associate Dean (Academic Operations) will contact the student to discuss the alleged breach.
- 10.2.3 The allegation will be recorded in the Student Management System.
- 10.2.4 If the Associate Dean (Academic Operations) determines that a Level 3 breach has occurred, a report and recommended action will be referred to the Dean.
- 10.2.5 The Dean may choose to consider the matter as a panel of one or by a review panel consisting of the Dean, Associate Dean (Programs and Quality), Associate Dean (Academic Operations), and the Director of Academic Enhancement and Support.
- 10.2.6 The student(s) will be invited to present their case. The students will be given at least five days' notice of the scheduled meeting.
- 10.2.7 Where it is determined that a Level 3 breach has occurred, the student(s) will be provided with a formal written decision, including a notice of penalty (see section 10.3). All academics involved in the matter will also be informed.
- 10.2.8 The breach will be recorded as a Level 3 breach in the Academic Integrity Register.
- 10.2.9 A Level 3 breach will appear on the student's academic transcript.
- 10.2.10 Where no breach is found, the student and all academics involved in the matter will be advised accordingly with an appropriate notation in the Student Management System.

10.3 Penalties for Level 3 Breaches

Upon determination that a student is guilty of a Level 3 breach, one or more of the following may be imposed:

- suspension from the student's course for a nominated period, not more than one year;
- exclusion; or
- other penalties approved by the President.

NOTE: A decision to apply a penalty of a suspension or exclusion must be ratified by the full review panel (see Section 10.2.5 above).

- 10.4 Students suspended from their course will have their rights and privileges as a student of APIC withdrawn for the period of the suspension.

11. Academic Misconduct Appeals

- 11.1 A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty for a finding of academic misconduct.
- 11.2 All appeals must be made in writing to the Registrar (refer to the Student Grievance and Appeals Policy).
- 11.3 An appeal may only be made on one or more of the following grounds, which must be addressed in the appeal application by the student:
- the student presents evidence that the initial finding and/or the outcome(s) imposed was made in breach of procedural fairness;
 - the student produces substantial new evidence relating to the original allegation of academic misconduct, which was not previously available for consideration; and/or
 - the student presents arguments that the penalty imposed is unjustifiably severe.
- 11.4 Upon receipt of the appeal, the Registrar will determine if there is sufficient detail and supporting documentation to meet the grounds of appeal set out in Section 11.3 above. The Registrar will not adjudicate the matter.
- 11.5 If the Registrar is satisfied, the appeal documentation meets the requirements of Section 11.3 above; the matter will be referred to the Reviewing Officer.
- 11.6 The Reviewing Officer against a finding of academic misconduct will be:
- for Level 1 breaches – Associate Dean (Academic Operations)
 - for Level 2 breaches – Dean and Director of Learning & Teaching
 - for Level 3 breaches – PEO
- 11.7 The Reviewing Officer may choose to deal with the matter as a committee of one or co-opt other appropriate staff members. The PEO may refer the matter to the Appeals Committee as defined in the APIC Governance Charter.
- 11.8 The determination of a Reviewing Officer will be provided to the student in writing within 10 working days of the Registrar's decision in Section 11.5 above.
- 11.9 The finding of the Reviewing Officer will be the final internal avenue of appeal.
- 11.10 Where the Registrar determines in Section 11.4 above that the requirements for an appeal have not been met, the student will be advised in writing. The student may submit additional documentation if desired. Only one resubmission will be considered.
- 11.11 A student's enrolment will be maintained during any the period of appeal.

- 11.12 All documentation for an appeal against a finding and/or penalty of academic misconduct appeal will be part of the student's record.
- 11.13 Where a student remains dissatisfied with a decision, they may exercise their rights for an external appeal.

12. Academic Integrity Declaration

12.1 When submitting written assignments, students are required to use the standard coversheet, which includes the following:

I/we confirm that:

- I/we have read and understood APIC's Academic Integrity Policy.
- I/we hereby certify that no part of this assignment has been copied from any other student's work or from any other source except where due acknowledgement is made in the assignment.
- I/we hereby certify that no part of this assignment has been submitted by me in any other (previous or current) assessment, except where appropriately referenced, and with prior permission from the Lecturer/Tutor for this unit.
- No part of the assignment has been written/produced for me/us by any other person except where collaboration has been authorised by the Lecturer/Tutor concerned.
- I/we am/are aware that this work will be reproduced and submitted to plagiarism detection software programs to detect possible plagiarism (which may retain a copy on its database for future plagiarism checking).

I/we also confirm that I/we hold a copy of this assignment as submitted.