



Academic Integrity Policy

1. PURPOSE

To define Academic Integrity at Unitec and to promote the commitment of its staff and students to maintain Academic Integrity.

This policy relates directly to Section 8.1 of the Academic Statute, which requires learning and teaching activities to:

- i) support educational achievement;
- ii) foster Student engagement;
- iii) prepare Students for employment and/or educational pathways.

To achieve in their studies and in employment, students require appropriate academic support and guidance to act with integrity.

2. SCOPE

Academic integrity relates to meeting moral or ethical principles in educational settings. Commitment to these academic principles creates a foundation for successful personal and professional participation and enables citizens to contribute to the broader community, work and society.

At Unitec we are committed to the highest standards of integrity, respect, and professional conduct. This commitment informs every aspect of our working life, from respectful interactions with colleagues to integrity in all our academic and professional endeavours. We hold our students to the same high standards, and we are committed to providing the policies and resources necessary to support their success as learners and citizens.

Academic integrity practices apply the principle of Whakaritenga – Legitimacy, which requires that academic decision-making processes legitimise the contributions of others and ensure that ethics and integrity inform subsequent actions.

3. POLICY STATEMENTS

- 1) All Unitec staff and students will commit to the values below promoted by the International Centre for Academic Integrity (ICAI):

Honesty:An Academic Community of Integrity advances the quest for truth and knowledge by requiring intellectual and personal honesty in learning, teaching, research and service.

Trust:An Academic Community of Integrity fosters a climate of mutual trust, encourages the free exchange of ideas, and enables all to reach their highest potential.

Fairness:An Academic Community of Integrity establishes clear standards, practices and procedures and expects fairness in the interactions of students, teachers and administrators.

Respect:An Academic Community of Integrity recognises the participatory nature of the learning process and honours and respects a wide range of opinions and ideas.

Responsibility:An Academic Community of Integrity upholds personal accountability and depends upon action in the face of wrongdoing.

2) Therefore, the key principles of this policy are that Unitec¹:

- requires all its students and staff to undertake their academic work with Academic Integrity;
- encourages all its staff and students to engage in educational opportunities available, to understand the expectations and standards which support Academic Integrity;
- will offer a range of approaches to educate its students and staff to practise Academic Integrity in their academic work;
- will take consistent and equitable action to deal with alleged Academic Dishonesty by students by:
 - communicating to students that any piece of academic work they submit can be checked as to its authenticity at any time by Unitec using an appropriate process
 - implementing a common remedial and penalty framework across Unitec through the Student Disciplinary Statute
 - establishing and applying appropriate, consistent procedures for detecting and investigating alleged Academic Dishonesty, and
 - communicating the disciplinary appeal process
- will take consistent and equitable action through the Unitec Code of Conduct to deal with alleged Academic Dishonesty by staff.

3) Unitec will engage staff and students by:

- using appropriate mechanisms to advise staff and students of this policy;
- developing educational strategies to promote Academic Integrity;
- developing strategies that reduce opportunities for Academic Dishonesty;
- designing strategies to increase student engagement with their study and their ability to submit their own work, and
- reviewing these strategies at appropriate intervals.

¹We acknowledge Macquarie University whose policy on Academic Honesty forms the basis of these principles and some procedures. Other organisations whose principles or policies have been referenced are: International Centre for Academic Integrity; Massey University.

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- 4) Unitec shall be entitled to initiate disciplinary procedures if a Unitec student or staff member breaches this policy.

4. PROCESS

Guidelines for both staff and students are available in Moodle courses linked from the Unitec website. (See References section).

5. DEFINITIONS

Academic Community of Integrity	Means all Unitec staff members (whether full-time, part-time or adjunct) and Students.
Academic Dishonesty	Means any behaviours, including Cheating and Plagiarism and any other Academic Misconduct, that constitute dishonest academic practices.
Academic Integrity	means intellectual honesty with regard to the use of information and in the pursuit of knowledge and understanding. It implies a commitment to the core values identified in this policy.
The terms "Cheating", "Plagiarism" and "Academic Misconduct"	have the meaning given to those terms in the Student Disciplinary Statute.

6. REFERENCES

- [1] Student Disciplinary Statute
- [2] Unitec Code of Conduct
- [3] Disciplinary Policy and Procedures
- [4] Guidelines and support documents for staff and students can be found at the following addresses:
<http://moodle.unitec.ac.nz/course/view.php?id=3191&topic=0#section-1> and
<http://moodle.unitec.ac.nz/course/view.php?id=3188>

7. AUTHORITY

Academic Board is the approval body for the Academic Integrity Policy, and policy ownership lies with the Dean Teaching and Learning.

All cases of alleged Academic Dishonesty by students will be dealt with under the provisions of the Student Disciplinary Statute.

All cases of alleged Academic Dishonesty by staff will be dealt with under the provisions of Unitec's Code of Conduct and the Disciplinary Policy and Procedures.

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