

Breaches of Academic Integrity

What is an academic integrity breach?



A breach of academic integrity occurs when a person seeks to gain for themselves, or to assist another person to gain, an academic advantage by deception or other unfair means.

Dishonest practice in assessment that breaches academic integrity includes misrepresentation of identity, plagiarism, dishonest use of technology, cheating, fabrication, multiple submission, collusion, ghost-writing, contract cheating, and submitting work as individual that has been jointly prepared.

Dishonest practice may also include misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, and gaining an unfair advantage. The Appendix gives expanded definitions and examples of such breaches of academic integrity.

Definitions and examples of breaches of academic integrity

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cheating entails using or attempting to use unauthorised assistance, material or study aids in examinations or other assessments, or preventing or attempting to prevent another from using authorised assistance, material or study aids.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Examples: using a cheat sheet in a quiz or exam; altering a graded exam and resubmitting it for a better grade; using a digital device to access information in a closed-book text or exam, using prohibited materials, copying from a peer, conspiring before an exam to develop methods of illicitly exchanging information during an exam | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collusion entails learners working together or with other persons for the purpose of deceiving the assessor as to who is actually responsible for producing the material submitted for assessment.¹<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Example: contributing less than a fair share of required work to a group assignment and then claiming an equal share of the mark• Criminal activity includes breaking the law or engaging in misconduct that resembles criminal activity.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Examples: stealing an examination from a staff member or from a staff office, buying a stolen examination |
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¹ Sutherland-Smith, W. (2018). Crossing the line: Collusion or collaboration in university group work. *Australian University Review*, 55(1), 51-58.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dishonest use of technology – see Student Computer Usage – Policy QC171.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Examples: misappropriating another learner’s work left on a computer or network; obtaining program code fragments from several sources and putting them together as one programme; using digital technology to access notes or answers during a closed- book test or examination; using a computer to disrupt another learner’s assessment attempt• Fabrication entails submitting contrived or altered information in any academic exercise.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Examples: making up data for an experiment; ‘fudging’ data and/or citing non-existent or irrelevant articles; citing material which exists but has not been viewed and read by the learner, falsifying a creative work• Facilitating academic dishonesty entails knowingly helping or attempting to help another person act with dishonesty.²<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Example: working together on an individual assignment where independent work is explicitly required• Fake referencing entails citing a source that does not relate to the relevant text. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Misrepresentation of academic records entails misrepresenting or tampering with, or attempting to tamper with, any portion of one’s own or another’s transcript or academic record, either before or after enrolling at EIT.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Examples: forging a registration form or a change of grade advice; tampering with computer records• Misrepresentation of identity occurs when a learner lies or is misleading about the identity of the person who has undertaken work. This includes contract cheating and ghost writing, when a learner gets another person or organisation to produce an assignment or complete an assessment for them, whether paid or unpaid.³<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Examples: requesting others to undertake an assessment on one’s behalf; requesting others (including commercial companies who prepare academic work for others) to conduct research or prepare any work for one; submitting assignments in one’s own name that have been obtained from others, whether within or outside of EIT, including on a commercial basis |
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² This and the five preceding definitions come from: Bethel University. (n.d.). *Academic honesty*. catalog.bethel.edu/academics/catalog/2015-2016/arts-sciences/academic-information/academic-honesty

³ Edith Cowan University. (n.d.). *Contract cheating: The warning signs*. https://intranet.ecu.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0014/830201/Plagiarism-and-Contract-Cheating-the-warning-signs-when-marking-Sept2019.pdf

Definitions and examples of breaches of academic integrity

- **Multiple submissions** entail submitting, without prior permission, any work submitted to fulfil another academic requirement, at EIT or elsewhere.
 - Example: submitting the same paper for two different classes
- **Paraphrasing** entails minute changes made to original source text without appropriate referencing.
- **Plagiarism** entails the presentation of another's writing, data, language, ideas, images, graphics, artwork, designs, figures or intellectual property as one's own without appropriate citation or acknowledgement. Plagiarism includes the misuse of another author's writings
 - Examples: misrepresenting another's work as one's own original work; using someone else's ideas without attribution; failing to cite a reference or to use quotation marks where appropriate
- **Unfair advantage** entails attempting to gain unauthorised advantage, for oneself or another learner, over fellow learners in an academic exercise, and can also entail disadvantaging fellow learners.⁴
 - Examples: gaining or providing unauthorised access to examination materials; obstructing or interfering with another learner's efforts in an academic exercise; lying about a need for an extension for an exam or paper; continuing to write even when time is up during an exam; destroying, hiding, removing or keeping library materials, removing or damaging posted or reserved material or preventing other students from having access to it

In the case of suspected plagiarism, the guidelines in the note on the following page may be used to distinguish between a referencing error and actual plagiarism.

⁴ Center for Student Conduct, University of California, Berkley. (n.d.). *Definitions & examples of academic misconduct*. <https://sa.berkeley.edu/conduct/integrity/definition>

Note that an in-text citation contains either three or five elements:

1. the content being cited
2. author surname(s)
3. year of publication

and for direct quotation:

4. page number(s)
5. relevant punctuation

Referencing error: If an attempt has been made in terms of 1 to 3 or 1 to 5, as appropriate, but something is missing or incorrect. A referencing error should result in formative feedback being given.

Plagiarism: If no attempt has been made in terms of 1 to 3 or 1 to 5, as appropriate.

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