

Academic integrity and decision-making: an integrated approach

academic integrity

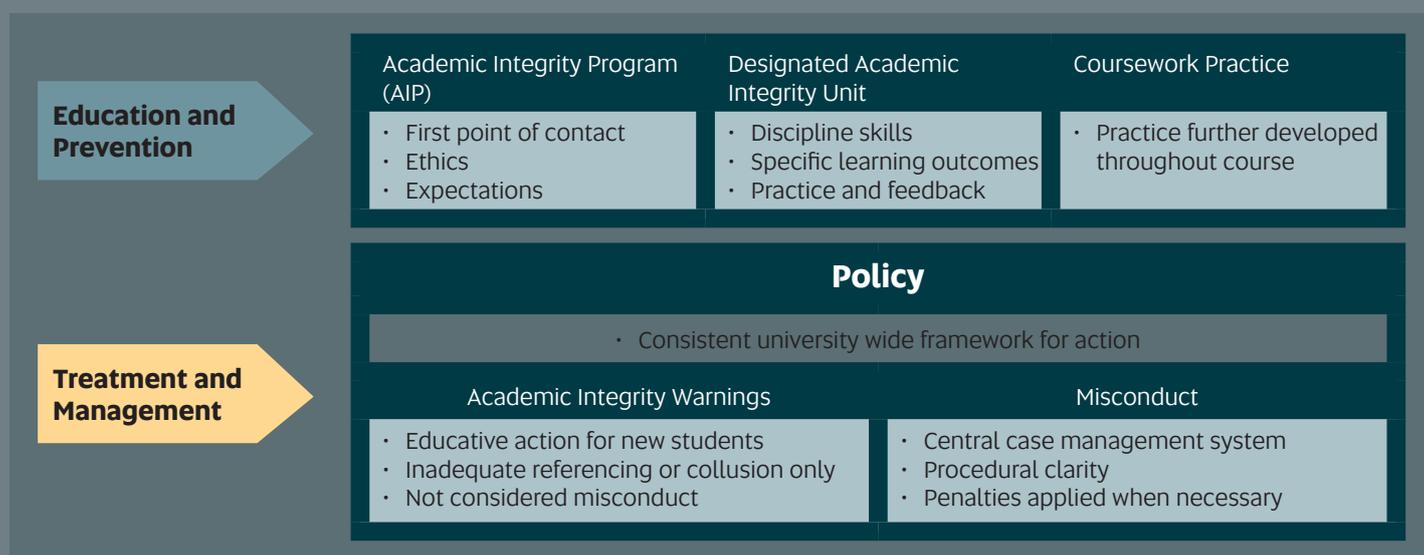
TEQSA

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Focus area: Academic integrity breach decision-making

Curtin subscribes to a two-pronged, integrated approach to the management of academic integrity: education and prevention, and treatment and management:

<https://students.curtin.edu.au/essentials/rights/academic-integrity/>



Curtin's approach to academic integrity

Education and prevention

This entails a strong educative focus for students and staff to develop an institutional culture that values academic integrity principles. All new students are required to complete a compulsory Academic Integrity Program (AIP) during the first two weeks of study. The AIP helps lay a foundation of integrity for new coursework students by teaching core values, communicating expectations for students and exploring challenging ethical issues that students may be exposed to during their studies. A complementary Staff Academic Integrity Program is available and recommended to help train staff members on academic integrity principles and appropriate decision-making skills.

All students are required to complete a Designated Academic Integrity Unit in their first study term, which builds on the AIP and focuses on assessment requirements, academic writing conventions and acknowledgement within the disciplinary context, providing a forum for practice and feedback. All units throughout the course are expected to support academic integrity skill development.

Treatment and management

The second prong is ensuring robust policies and procedures to support consistent decision-making throughout the institution. During a student's first term of study, the university applies an Academic Integrity Warning for students who have inadequately referenced or colluded inappropriately on an assessment. This warning is not considered to be Academic Misconduct and students are provided with appropriate educative support to improve skills that are lacking.

A statute and three associated rules provide the foundation for staff decision-making and a central repository and management system is used for all cases of alleged misconduct. Staff have numerous resources available, including information on strategies to promote academic integrity and detailed information on how to manage breaches.

Key lessons:

- A strong policy and procedure framework is the basis for consistent decision-making.
 - A clear decision-making flowchart has been extremely useful to guide staff on appropriate steps to take in the event of a suspected academic integrity breach.
 - A central academic integrity breach management system has improved university-wide consistency of decision-making and reporting; thereby providing an evidence base for targeted follow-up actions.
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