

Linking values and virtues to academic integrity

academic integrity

TEQSA

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Focus area: Making academic integrity visible

Academic Integrity requires a whole-of-institution commitment, and it should be both practical and transparent to staff and students. Furthermore, it must be supported by sound policies, processes and practices that are fair and encourage students to aspire to excellence.

EQUALS has found that academic integrity takes on greater importance for students when the institutional values underpinning it finds practical expression in day-to-day life on campus, and when students have the opportunity to contribute to how those values are expressed.

Over 90% of students who participated in evaluation of learning and teaching surveys in 2019 reported that **EQUALS'** institutional values of equality, diversity and unity were critically important to them and positively impacted how they felt to be studying at **EQUALS**. Students that feel part of a cohesive community are more likely to talk about challenges facing them in their studies, in turn enabling staff to provide advice and support that improve academic integrity.

Broader institutional values such as truthfulness, determination and nobility are embedded throughout the student journey and made visible around campus. Rooms, simulation spaces and collaborative areas are named after a virtue that can be traced back to the Student Partnership Agreement, an agreement that informs mutual rights and responsibilities. In addition, these values are closely linked with the Graduate Attributes and **EQUALS'** core institutional values of equality, diversity and unity.

The learning and teaching spaces at **EQUALS** also include corresponding wall quotes offering practical explanations that help educators and students to explore values and beliefs that underpin their behaviours and choices. Educators relate to these values during their teaching activities, using them as a means to work through problem-based scenarios and decision-making processes.

Although **EQUALS** maintains a robust academic integrity framework to monitor and respond to incidents of academic dishonesty, creating a campus environment that encourages constructive dialogue around difficult topics (such as cultural inclusivity and respect, and mutual trust) engenders improved behaviours and practices by both staff and students.

Key lessons or points for implementation:

- **Creating a safe environment** where values and virtues form part of the everyday dialogue on campus can create improved levels of transparency between staff and students, and increased motivation to strive for better practice.
- **Connecting student behaviours to institutional values** can strengthen individual resolve and commitment towards academic integrity;
- **Students must be active partners** in creating and implementing academic integrity initiatives.

Links:

EQUALS' [Student Partnership Agreement](#)

Endurance

"Endurance is one of the most difficult disciplines, but it is to the one who endures that the final victory comes."

Buddha

Links:

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