

POLICY TITLE: Academic Integrity

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide an overarching statement and framework to ensure that academic integrity is understood and fostered at Photography Studies College (Melbourne). Academic integrity is integral in an academic environment. Without honesty and trust, true academic discourse becomes impossible, learning is distorted, and the evaluation of student progress and academic quality is seriously compromised.

Policy

Photography Studies College (Melbourne) supports and fosters academic integrity and is committed to:

- Assuring the academic credibility and reputation of the College, its staff and students
- Protecting the standards of the awards that Photography Studies College (Melbourne) students earn
- Ensuring that our students receive due credit for the work they submit for assessment
- Guiding the best interests of our students
- Advising students of the need for academic integrity and helping them achieve best practice in studying and learning
- Educating students about what intellectual property is, why it matters, how to protect their own IP and how to legitimately access other people's work
- Educating students to work independently and submit their own work
- Educating students to behave ethically
- Educating students to reference ideas or words that are not their own by implementing a referencing system
- Abiding by copyright and privacy laws.

Procedures

The specific procedures and practices governing the implementation of Academic Integrity at Photography Studies College (Melbourne) are incorporated in the following Policies:

Intellectual and Academic Freedom

Plagiarism

Intellectual Property

Staff Code of Conduct

Through the carriage of these Policies, students will be given opportunities to learn about scholarly ways of working. Teachers will model appropriate academic conventions and will coach students in how to appropriately demonstrate knowledge, expertise and skills in an academic environment. Teachers will foster an environment in which students can learn these behaviours.

Students will take responsibility for their own actions, especially in group or collaborative work, and develop their own professional values and ways of working.

Students will develop personal strategies to resist practices that may interfere with honesty and integrity including when they are facing difficulties.

Photography Studies College (Melbourne) discharges this commitment by focussing on preventing academic misconduct. Prevention of misconduct takes many forms including the education of students, the professional development of staff, encouraging students with problems with their academic performance to speak to their course teacher, and the ongoing development of procedures to detect academic misconduct/fraud and to deal appropriately and fairly with those found guilty of such behaviour.

Photography Studies College (Melbourne) recognises that cases of apparent academic misconduct may be the result of many different factors. For example, we understand that students may be inadvertently negligent or unaware early in their academic careers as they develop their skills. So the processes contained in the above mentioned Policies for dealing with academic misconduct allow for incremental responses, starting in the early stages with guidance to learn from mistakes.

However in the interests of preserving the standard and value of Photography Studies College (Melbourne)'s qualifications, persistent breaches of academic integrity will not be tolerated.

Definitions

Academic integrity refers to honesty and trust in all aspects of academic work. It includes the way students and staff write assignments and papers, and conduct themselves during examinations and in any research activities they may undertake.

Related Documentation

Policies

Intellectual and Academic Freedom
Plagiarism
Intellectual Property
Staff Code of Conduct
Student Conduct

Procedures, Forms & Documents

Staff Handbook
Relevant Student Handbook
teqsa.gov.au/what-academic-integrity

Publishing Details

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Julie Moss - Managing Director

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Moss', with a large loop at the start and a horizontal line extending to the right.