

Student breaches of academic integrity – guidance for decision-makers

Determining nature of breach of academic integrity

The following factors and examples are provided as guidance only. Decision-makers should consider each of the below factors and suggested examples, and determine on balance whether the breach is best described as poor academic practice or academic misconduct.

Factors	Poor Academic Practice	Academic Misconduct
<p><u>History</u> <i>Has there been previous reports or findings of breaches of academic integrity?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No previous reports or findings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previous reports or findings
<p><u>Experience</u> <i>How experienced is the student? What are they likely to understand regarding academic integrity? What mandatory academic integrity education has the student participated in?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inexperienced student (e.g. less than 25% through course, first time undertaking tertiary study) First time completing the particular type of assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experienced student (e.g. over 25% of the way through course, has undertaken other tertiary studies)
<p><u>Nature</u> <i>What is the potential breach of academic integrity?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small amount of paraphrasing or copying without adequate or appropriate referencing Reusing or recycling assessment tasks Collusion (with impact limited to student’s own performance) Possession (rather than established use) of unauthorised material in a supervised assessment task Inadvertent unauthorised communication (or communication with limited impact) with any person in a supervised assessment task Failure to comply with reasonable instructions from a supervisor in a supervised assessment task (with limited impact) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial amount of paraphrasing or copying without adequate or appropriate referencing Contract cheating and/or presenting work substantially written by someone else Collusion (with significant impact) Undertaking an assessment task on behalf of another student Falsifying or fabricating data, information or documents Established use of unauthorised material in a supervised assessment task Unauthorised communication (with significant impact) with any person in a supervised assessment task Failure to comply with reasonable instructions from a supervisor in a supervised assessment task (with significant impact) Attempting to bribe or coerce a UNE Representative or student in order to gain an academic advantage

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failing to comply with the rules, policies or code of ethics of UNE or the relevant professional and statutory bodies, or instructions from supervisors, while completing assessment tasks on, or participating in, in work integrated learning placements
<p><u>Extent</u> <i>What proportion of the assessment is a potential breach of academic integrity?</i> <i>How significant to the assessment is the potential breach of academic integrity?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A small component of the assessment task is a potential breach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantial components of the assessment task are potential breaches A significant part of the assessment (e.g. a results section) is a potential breach
<p><u>Impact</u> <i>What is the impact of the potential breach on other students, the assessment, and the course or University's reputation?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact is limited to the student's own performance in an assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact is on other students and/or the course or University's reputation Potential breach compromises the integrity of the assessment task
<p><u>Intent</u> <i>What evidence is available regarding the intentionality of the potential breach?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential breach appears accidental, unintentional or due to a misunderstanding or lack of knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential breach appears deliberate and/or planned. Multiple students involved Potential breach contravenes clear assessment instructions

Determining penalties for breach of academic integrity

The following penalty matrix is provided as guidance for decision-makers and is not prescriptive. Decision-makers must determine penalties on a case-by-case basis.

In all cases, any material found to be a breach of academic integrity should not be considered in the marking of the assessment task.

Poor Academic Practice	Academic Misconduct	
<p><u>Educational</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Referral to Unit Coordinator and/or Academic Skills Office for assistance <p style="text-align: center;">AND/OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-take the Academic Integrity Module within 20 working days of the decision. 	<p>Repeated poor academic practice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational response (see Poor Academic Practice) <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resubmission of the assessment task, part of the assessment task, or a comparable assessment task with reduction in mark; or Reduction in assessment mark <p><i>Multiple instances of poor academic practice may warrant a more severe penalty</i></p>
<p><u>Academic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit Coordinator to not consider material found to be a breach of academic integrity in the marking of the assessment task <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resubmission of the assessment task, part of the assessment task, or a comparable assessment task, with no reduction of mark 	<p>1st breach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational response (see Poor Academic Practice) <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resubmission of the assessment task, part of the assessment task, or a comparable assessment task with reduction in mark; or Reduction in assessment mark. <p><i>A first breach of a serious nature may warrant a more severe penalty</i></p>
	<p>2nd breach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational response (see Poor Academic Practice) <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in assessment mark to 0; or Reduction in unit mark; or Award of a grade of WUN. <p><i>A second breach of a serious nature may warrant a more severe penalty</i></p>
	<p>3⁺ breaches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational response (see Poor Academic Practice) <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award of a grade of WUN; and/or Exclusion from the course or University for a period of time; and/or Expulsion
	<p>Breach discovered after graduation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revocation of award