POLICY	ACADEMIES AUSTRALASIA POLYTECHNIC

Ref. to Legislative Frameworks: HESF2021: Standard 5.2 / 6.1.4 / 6.3 SRTO2015: Standard 2.2 National Code 2018: Standard 8.8.1 / 8.9	**Academic Integrity, Honesty and Free Intellectual Inquiry**	
Version: 5.3	Policy Owner: Academic Board	Issued on: 09/03/2023 Review by: 09/03/2025

Revision History

Current Version	Description of Change(s)	Policy Developer(s)	Effective Date
5.3	Updated references to HESF 2021 Updated roles, Updated references	Compliance Manager and Academic Dean	09/03/2023
5.2	Revised "Free Intellectual Inquiry" statements Added references to National Code 2018	Quality Assurance Support Officer	25/01/2018

PURPOSE

This policy explains the approach taken by Academies Australasia Polytechnic (AAPoly) in developing the organisational culture of academic integrity, honesty and freedom of intellectual inquiry.

POLICY STATEMENT

AAPoly promotes, within the limits of its resources, scholarship, research, free intellectual inquiry and academic excellence. The culture of academic integrity, honesty and free intellectual inquiry at AAPoly is underpinned by AAPoly core values[1]:

- Respect for individuals - students, staff, peers, other stakeholders;
- Act with integrity;
- Uphold equity, access and sustainability principles;
- Encourage free intellectual inquiry through scholarly activities.

AAPoly develops and maintains an institutional environment in which freedom of intellectual inquiry is upheld and protected.

SCOPE

This policy applies to members of AAPoly governing bodies, academic staff (permanent and sessional), other employees or members of management team who engage in academic work, and students of AAPoly.

DEFINITIONS

Academic integrity	Ethical conduct in academic endeavours, including rigour in academic work such as research, assignments and examinations, as well as avoidance of plagiarism or cheating
Intellectual inquiry	Systematic questioning to construct a sound thought or answer to enhance the existing body of knowledge about a subject matter
Academic misconduct / Academic dishonesty	Breaching academic integrity is also known as 'academic misconduct' or 'academic dishonesty'.[2] Various forms of academic misconducts include cheating, contract cheating, plagiarism,

POLICY

1. AAPoly recognises:

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[1] AAPoly's Strategic Plan (2017-2020)

[2] TEQSA, (2022), What is academic integrity? Available online at
https://www.teqsa.gov.au/students/understanding-academic-integrity/what-academic-integrity

- the importance of challenging accepted ideas and encouraging vigorous debate;
- its academic staff members
  - have the right and duty to exercise their own professional judgment in engaging in teaching and research and to disseminate the results of that research, without undue interference from any other party provided that the rights of other parties are respected, and there is no breach of any relevant legislation;
  - have the right to undertake scholarship that informs their teaching and conduct research that leads to the creation of new knowledge;
- the students are encouraged to develop a capacity for critical judgment and independent thought;
- the students have the right to freedom of speech and they should be encouraged to examine and discuss all questions of interest to them, and express opinions publicly as well as privately;
- the responsible dissemination and communication of the outcomes of research as publications and creative works; and
- the significance of acting in accordance with the highest scholarly, ethical, professional and legal standards.

2. As an education provider, AAPoly:
   - takes actions to mitigate foreseeable risks to academic integrity; and
   - provides guidance and training to students and academic staff members on best practices in maintaining academic integrity and honesty concurrent with free intellectual inquiry, including on prevention of academic misconduct

3. AAPoly supports an educative response to first-time breaches of academic integrity where evidence of dishonest intent cannot be proven.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Academic Board is responsible for developing and maintaining this policy.
- Academic Dean is responsible for communicating and overseeing the implementation of this policy. The Dean also ensures that all academic staff and students are familiar with and adhere to this policy.
- Associate Dean (Education) is responsible for communicating this policy to the students and the academic staff members within their teams.
- As a statement of principles, staff members are responsible for reading, comprehending and implementing these principles in their work.

FEEDBACK

Queries or feedback about this policy should be directed to the Academic Dean through academicdean@aapoly.edu.au. The Dean will respond to the written question or feedback within two (2) weeks from the receipt, unless an extenuating circumstance requires an immediate response or action. The feedback and subsequent outcome will be documented in the version register which will form a part of quality assurance and continuous improvement of AAPoly.

References

Source	Document Title
Internal	AAPoly Academic Board Charter
	AAPoly Academic Misconduct and Plagiarism Policy and Procedure
	AAPoly Code of Conduct for Staff
	AAPoly Higher Education Study Guide
	AAPoly International Student Handbook
External	Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021
	TEQSA Guidance note: Academic Governance
	National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students
	TEQSA: What is academic integrity?
	TEQSA: Protecting academic integrity