Rethink your assessment design

The way you design your assessments can have an impact on academic integrity, in combination with other factors such as relationships with students and quality of teaching. In-class tasks, personalised and unique tasks, vivas, and reflection on practical placements have all been found to promote student authorship. Practical assessment types might include:

- Asking students to apply their knowledge to an unseen scenario – in class or as part of an examination;
- Providing opportunities to work on a task in class with peers;
- Asking students to submit evidence of research, e.g. annotated bibliography prior to task due date;
- Connecting task requirements with classroom experiences, e.g. discussions; and
- Asking students to refer to current/recent events

Think about the timing of your assessments:

- Provide early and continuous feedback to support and monitor student learning in your unit.
- Consider timing in relation to other assessments students will be completing in the course to reduce the load of several high-stakes assessments in a short timeframe.

Develop an understanding of Turnitin

Turnitin is an internet-based plagiarism-prevention service. Students submit their assignments through Turnitin, which checks the documents for unoriginal content. The results can be used to identify similarities to existing sources or can be used in formative assessment to help students learn how to avoid plagiarism and improve their writing.

For more information, visit: http://intranet.ecu.edu.au/learning/learning-technologies/turnitin

Educate your students about the importance of academic integrity

Many students start at university with little to no prior knowledge about academic integrity and the importance of supporting it. Alongside students completing ECU’s Academic Integrity Module, Unit Coordinators play a key role in developing student understanding of academic integrity through embedding relevant tasks and activities within a unit. Spending time in class explaining plagiarism in first-year units, analysing a relevant Turnitin similarity report in pairs, and paraphrasing sections of a required reading can be useful.

Use Cadmus for one of your assessment items

Cadmus is an innovative assessment tool that helps academics to scaffold assessment tasks in an online platform integrated with Blackboard. It also tracks device information such as when and where students log in to the Cadmus platform, which identifies students that may not be completing the assessment task on their own. ECU had great success in piloting the use of Cadmus in 2018, and has rolled out the program for an expanded number of units.

Read the latest ECU academic integrity policies and procedures

Unit Coordinators have important responsibilities in ECU’s academic integrity processes and should become familiar with relevant policies. Unit Coordinators support all teaching staff in their unit every semester to ensure that they understand how to identify and report potential cases of academic misconduct. Through the use of ECU’s academic integrity management system, Unit Coordinators will also be deciding on outcomes for academic breaches (defined as minor cases of unintentional plagiarism by ‘New to ECU’ students) within their unit. For more information on these terms, please use the link below to read the policy definitions and how they are applied.

THE TOP 5 WAYS THAT UNIT COORDINATORS CAN SUPPORT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

1. Rethink your assessment design
2. Develop an understanding of Turnitin
3. Educate your students about the importance of academic integrity
4. Use Cadmus for one of your assessment items
5. Read the latest ECU academic integrity policies and procedures

Important Info and Helpful Links

Contact your school’s Senior Learning Adviser for further guidance on embedding student understanding of academic integrity within a unit.

Student Academic Integrity website: https://intranet.ecu.edu.au/student/my-studies/academic-integrity

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Teacher’s website: https://cadmus.io/teachers/features

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Important Info and Helpful Links

Matrices that detail the reporting process are available in ECU’s Academic Misconduct Procedures, including Unit Coordinator responsibilities.

Staff Academic Integrity website: https://intranet.ecu.edu.au/learning/academic-integrity/overview

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