

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedure

1. Policy

- 1.1 Gippsland Institute of Technology implements an effective academic misconduct policy to prevent, detect and handle instances of collusion, cheating and plagiarism.
- 1.2 The following procedure identifies the action Gippsland Institute of Technology implements to prevent, detect, and address instances of collusion, cheating and plagiarism.
- 1.3 This policy and procedure is based on the expectation that students will prepare and present, at all times throughout their studies, their own work.
- 1.4 This policy and procedure applies to all students enrolled in training courses and all trainers/ assessors.
- 1.5 Trainers/ assessors consistently implement this policy and procedure to ensure that students understand the difference between cooperative learning, group work and collusive behaviour.
- 1.6 Cheating in any form and/or plagiarism and/or collusion will result in the student's assessment submission being invalidated.
- 1.7 This policy and procedure is implemented to facilitate assessment being conducted in a way that is fair and appropriate and enables accurate assessment judgement of actual student competency.
- 1.8 This policy and procedure is implemented to facilitate assessment of all Students in accordance with the principles of assessment, rules of evidence and training package requirements.
- 1.9 The CEO is responsible for implementing this policy and reviewing its effectiveness in compliance with regulatory guidelines.
- 1.10 This policy is implemented in compliance with the requirements of the Outcome Standards for NVR Registered Training Organisations 2025 Standards 1.3 - 1.6, and Compliance Standards for NVR Registered Training Organisations 2025 Standards 9 – 11.

Procedure

2. Prevention

- 2.1 Gippsland Institute of Technology provides all students with definitions of collusion, cheating and plagiarism in pre-enrolment information and at the orientation.
- 2.2 Gippsland Institute of Technology provides information on the outcome of collusion, cheating and plagiarism to students in pre-enrolment material and at orientation.
- 2.3 Gippsland Institute of Technology provides students with the following definitions:
 - Cheating
 - Cheating is the use of any means to gain an unfair advantage during the assessment process. Cheating may be (but not limited too) copying a friend's answers, using mobile phones or other electronic devices during closed book assessments, bringing in and referring to pre-prepared written answers in a closed book assessment and referring to texts during closed book assessments amongst others.
 - Cheating in any form during assessments will result in the student's assessment submission being invalidated.
 - Plagiarism
 - Plagiarism is the wrongful close imitation, or copying and publication, of another person's language, thoughts, ideas, or expressions, and the representation of

them as one's own work. This includes copying all or pieces of another students work and representing it as your own.

- If students are including other people's work in submissions, e.g. passages from books or websites, then reference should be made to the source.
- For further information on what constitutes plagiarism please refer to: <http://www.plagiarism.org/>.
- Submitting plagiarised work during assessments will result in the student's assessment submission being invalidated.

➤ **Collusion**

- Collusion is the presentation by a student of an assignment as his or her own, which is actually the result in whole or in part of unauthorised collaboration with another person or persons. Collusion involves the cooperation of two or more students in plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct or cheating. Both collusion and plagiarism can occur in group work.
- Unauthorised collusion during assessments will result in the student's assessment submission being invalidated.

- 2.4 Students are also advised that collusion, cheating, and plagiarism is treated as Academic Misconduct, and when detected, they will be dealt with according to this policy and procedure.
- 2.5 Trainers/ assessors reinforce the definitions of collusion, cheating and plagiarism and the outcomes of detection when administering assessments.
- 2.6 Trainers/ assessors provide information to students on assessment conditions prior to commencement of assessments.
- 2.7 Trainers/ assessors ensure no unauthorised reference material is available to students by inspecting the desks/ work areas of students undertaking the assessment.
- 2.8 Trainers/ assessors ensure that there is the appropriate spacing between desks to prevent viewing other student's answers.
- 2.9 Trainers/ assessors monitor students under open and closed book assessment tasks to ensure assessment conditions are being adhered too.
- 2.10 Trainers/ assessors provide information to students on assessment conditions prior to commencement of assessment.
- 2.11 Trainers/ assessors provide information to students on how to reference other people's work when submitting reports, and open-book assessments.
- 2.12 Trainers/ assessors provide information to students on appropriate circumstances for referencing other people's work.

3. Detection

- 3.1 Trainers will review students work to detect prose/ writing styles that differ from the student's normal writing style/ sentence construction.
- 3.2 Trainers will cross-reference student's submissions with other members of the cohort.
- 3.3 Trainers will use online plagiarism detection tools to check any student's submission that they suspect may contain plagiarised material. e.g. investigating whether a submission, or part thereof has been generated by an artificial intelligence (AI) tool.
- 3.4 Detection tools may include 'dustball' and/or 'article checker'.
- 3.5 Trainers will undertake internet searches on the topic to identify possible sources for the plagiarised material.
- 3.6 All completed assessment submissions are passed to the Training Manager by Assessors.
- 3.7 Gippsland Institute of Technology will moderate samples of completed assessments submitted. This includes inspection of completed assessments to detect cheating, plagiarism, or collusion.

- 3.8 The Training Manager will contact each trainer, discuss, and action any issues arising from completing the process in 3.6.
- 3.9 The assessment moderation process includes a review of students completed assessments to detect cheating, plagiarism, or collusion.

4. Consequences of unauthorised collusion, cheating and/or submitting plagiarised material

- 4.1 On identifying collusion, cheating or plagiarism, the trainer collects the evidence and notify the CEO.
- 4.2 The circumstances of the incident must be documented.
- 4.3 The student is notified that they are suspected of 'Academic misconduct' by colluding, cheating, or plagiarising and invited to a meeting to discuss the evidence, circumstances, and possible outcomes.
- 4.4 The meeting minutes are documented, along with the outcome.
- 4.5 The student is notified of the potential outcomes prior to the meeting and given a copy of this policy.
- 4.6 The possible outcomes of colluding, cheating and/or submitting plagiarised work are:
 - Being counselled on colluding, cheating and plagiarism
 - The submission will be invalidated in all cases if cheating and plagiarism has occurred
 - The student may be given a warning and required to resubmit
 - The student may incur resubmission fees
 - The student's enrolment may be cancelled, and they are withdrawn from the course
 - A record of the student's collusion, cheating and/or plagiarism will be stored in their file.
 - Their employer may be notified (where appropriate).
- 4.7 The CEO will review each case on its individual merits and may implement any of the above actions as appropriate.
- 4.8 The student will receive written notification of the outcome within 10 days of the cheating and/or plagiarism being detected.
- 4.9 No refund is provided to students who have been removed from a course due to collusion, cheating and/or plagiarism.
- 4.10 Students have the right to appeal any decision relating to collusion, cheating and plagiarism by accessing the Complaints and Appeals policy. Students must submit their appeal within five days of receiving notification of the outcome.
- 4.11 The Complaints and appeals policy is available in the Student Information Handbook or on request by contacting the Training Manager.

Documents to be employed when implementing this policy and procedure:

- Student information handbook
- Induction checklist
- Assessment submissions

Revision history

Creation/ Revision Date	Comment	Revised by
28/4/25	Policy and procedure created	CEO
4/8/25	Policy and procedure updated	CEO

