Student academic integrity: Know your rights and responsibilities

Shared rights and responsibilities: Student academic integrity at SCU

The goal at this university is to empower students to practise academic integrity. This is why at SCU student academic integrity is framed in terms of shared rights and responsibilities.

At SCU, teachers, the university itself, and students all have rights and responsibilities in relation to student academic integrity. Understanding the shared responsibilities and rights framework used at SCU in relation to student academic integrity is important to study success.

Students have both rights and responsibilities in relation to academic integrity. While studying at SCU you have the right to be provided with information and teaching about academic integrity so that you know how to practise it (Southern Cross University, n.d.a). However, students have the responsibility to access information about academic integrity and make sure they follow university rules when submitting work for assessment.

The university also has both rights and responsibilities in relation to student academic integrity. The university has the responsibility to ensure students are given access to the information and guidance needed to understand the values of academic integrity, and how to practise it in their discipline or course (Southern Cross University, n.d.a).

The university also has the right to investigate students suspected of breaching academic integrity, and apply appropriate penalties. However, students have the right to confidentiality and procedural fairness if being investigated for suspected breaches of academic integrity, and any penalties applied by the university must be ‘fair, reasonable, consistent and defensible’ (Southern Cross University, n.d.b).

Student Academic Integrity is a shared concern at Southern Cross University. For this reason, students, teachers and the university all have rights and responsibilities in relation to student academic integrity (Southern Cross University, n.d.a).

Three documents you need to read

It is your responsibility, as a student at this university, to practise academic integrity and follow university rules. There are three key documents students need to read to understand their rights and responsibilities while studying at this university:

• Academic integrity policy
• Academic Misconduct Guidelines
• SCU Student Charter of Rights and Responsibilities

It is important to access and read these documents early in your studies. It is the responsibility of all SCU students to understand and adhere to the rules and expectations contained in the Academic Integrity Policy and the Academic Misconduct Guidelines.

Academic Integrity Policy

The SCU Academic Integrity Policy (Southern Cross University, n.d.b) outlines responsibilities and rights of the university, academics, and students in relation to academic integrity.
Academic Misconduct Guidelines

The Academic Misconduct Guidelines contain important information common types of academic misconduct, including cheating, collusion and plagiarism. This document also outlines student rights in relation to originality checking, and investigations of suspected instances of plagiarism.

At this university students are asked to sign an 'originality declaration' when they submit assignments. This declaration confirms you are submitting your own work for assessment, and that you have read and understood the Academic Misconduct Guidelines and Academic Integrity Policy.

The SCU Student Rights and Responsibilities Charter

The Student Rights and Responsibilities Charter (Southern Cross University, n.d.c) details the rights and responsibilities of students while studying at SCU.

All students are expected to read the student rights and responsibilities charter so they know:

• what to expect from their studies
• what is expected of them during their studies at this university.

In simple terms, what are my responsibilities?

In simple terms, it is your responsibility to read and adhere to university rules contained in university policy, and follow academic conventions in your course or area of study. That is, while studying at this university it is your responsibility to practise academic integrity.

Practise academic integrity when completing assessment tasks and examinations by:

• putting your own effort into assignments and exams
• submitting your own work for assessment
• not allowing other students to copy your work (so they can then submit it as their own work for assessment)
• carefully acknowledging when you use others’ work (by referencing correctly and consistently).

Summary: Knowing your rights and responsibilities in relation to academic integrity

• At SCU student academic integrity is viewed as a shared concern, and everyone in the university community has an interest, or stake.
• The university, teachers, and students all have rights and responsibilities in relation to student academic integrity.
• As a student of SCU you gain both rights and responsibilities in relation to academic integrity.
• Students are expected to read the SCU Student Rights and Responsibilities Charter, and the SCU Academic Integrity Policy, and Academic Misconduct Guidelines so they become aware of their rights and responsibilities while studying at this university.
• It is your right to receive teaching and resources so that you understand what academic integrity is, and how to practise it. This means the university has the responsibility to provide this support.
• It is your responsibility to learn about academic integrity and practise it by:
  • putting in the effort needed to complete assignments and exams
  • submitting your own work for assessment
  • not allowing others to copy your work for the purpose of submitting it for assessment as their own work
  • carefully acknowledging when you use the work of others (by referencing correctly and consistently).
• Ask your teachers questions about practising academic integrity in your discipline and access available support.
Related Quick Guides
Student academic integrity: An introduction, Student academic misconduct: An introduction

References
