

# Understanding student academic integrity at SCU



## Academic Skills Quick Guide

Academic integrity (AI) is very highly valued at SCU and other universities around the world. For new students, understanding what academic integrity means and what is expected of them is the first step. This guide provides this essential information and needs to be read alongside the practical guides about **how** to practise AI in assignments and exams.

### What academic integrity means

At its simplest, academic integrity means carefully showing when we use others' work. At university this is mainly done via referencing.

The main place students practise academic integrity is **assignments and exams**. They do so by **submitting their own work** for assessment.

Submit your own work for assessment by:

- putting in the effort required to complete assignments and exams
- using ideas, language, examples, data, theories and approaches found in relevant, credible sources to generate **their own** argument, answer to the question, solution to the problem, report on the issue and so on.
- using referencing to show when they use words, ideas, data, images or sounds from sources
- putting the meaning of sources into their own words when paraphrasing (and referencing)
- making sure direct quotes are correctly formatted and referenced (according to the referencing style guide)
- clearly showing where their work ends and others' work begins (e.g. often via referencing).

### Shared rights and responsibilities: Student academic integrity at SCU

SCU takes an **educative approach** to student academic integrity that is based upon a shared rights and responsibilities framework. The University understands:

- none of us are born knowing how to practise academic integrity,
- new students need to be given a chance to learn how to write in their discipline.

At SCU, teachers, the University, and students **all have rights and responsibilities** in relation to student academic integrity.

Understanding the shared responsibilities and rights framework used at SCU will help you to understand expectations and exercise your educational rights.

Just by being an SCU student, you gain the **right** to be provided with information and teaching about how to follow disciplinary writing conventions and practise academic integrity in your assignments and exams. However, it is **your responsibility** to pro-actively access this guidance and make sure you follow University rules when submitting work for assessment.

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. At the same time, 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.

## Two documents you need to read

Read the following documents so that you understand your educational rights and responsibilities:

- [Academic and non-academic misconduct rules](#)
- [SCU Student Charter of Rights and Responsibilities](#)

Make sure you read these documents early in your studies so that you have a good understanding of both what is expected of you as an SCU student, and your study rights.