

Policy History
<b>Policy No.</b> ST2
<b>Approving Jurisdiction:</b> Senate
<b>Administrative Responsibility:</b> Provost & Vice President Academic
<b>Effective Date:</b> June 26, 2023

# Student Academic Integrity Policy

## A. CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

This policy outlines the rights and responsibilities of Applicants and Students and the rights and responsibilities of the University concerning academic integrity at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU).

## B. SCOPE AND LIMITS

1. This policy addresses matters of academic integrity. This policy does not address matters related to non-academic student conduct (ST7), grade appeals (ST3) or complaints about an employee, an educational or service experience at KPU (AD2), which are considered under other University policies.
2. This policy applies to Breaches of Academic Integrity by Applicants and Students in University and University-related settings, including but not limited to online environments.
3. This policy applies to Breaches of Academic Integrity by Applicants and Students in all courses (except for assessments administered by SkilledTradesBC).
4. The appeal process stipulated in the procedure does not apply to Breaches of Academic Integrity in continuing and professional studies courses. Procedures for dealing with allegations concerning Breaches of Academic Integrity in continuing and professional studies courses will be published on the appropriate department website.
5. Refer to Policy and Procedure RS2 *Integrity in Research and Scholarship* for matters relating to student academic integrity in research.

## C. STATEMENT OF POLICY PRINCIPLES

### 1. Academic Integrity

- a. The University community is collectively responsible not only for upholding the written regulations of this policy but also for carrying on the teachings and traditions of integrity of

the land on which the University sits. This includes Indigenous perspectives of academic integrity and education more broadly, such as the need to approach education guided by principles of respect, relevance, reciprocity, and responsibility.<sup>1</sup> The University ascribes to a high standard of Academic Integrity, also including the six fundamental values of academic integrity, on which good academic work must be founded: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage.<sup>2</sup>

- b. All members of the University community have a responsibility to contribute positively to a culture of academic integrity.
- c. The University will use a balanced, holistic and educative approach to promote a positive culture of academic integrity with a focus on awareness, prevention and resolution procedures.
- d. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with these values. These standards of academic integrity require Students not to engage in or tolerate Breaches of Academic Integrity that violate the fundamental ethical principles of the University community and compromise the worth of work completed by others.

## **2. Students' Rights and Responsibilities**

- a. Students have a responsibility to meet the highest standards of academic integrity as set out in this policy.
- b. Students must not commit a Breach of Academic Integrity.
- c. Students have a responsibility to clarify with University Official(s) expectations and aspects of instruction and academic assessment that are unclear to the Students.
- d. Students who are subject to an allegation of a Breach of Academic Integrity have the right to have such allegations handled according to the principles of procedural fairness.

## **3. The University's Rights and Responsibilities**

- a. The University has a responsibility to provide resources and support to all members of the University community in promoting academic integrity through an educative approach.
- b. The University has a responsibility to ensure that a high standard of academic integrity is practiced by its Students and to articulate, teach and model those standards.
- c. The University has a responsibility to ensure that Students are informed of any course-specific standards that have been set for a particular course above and beyond what is outlined in this policy. Any course-specific standards do not supersede the definitions and provisions of this policy but may clarify them as they are applied in a particular course. In any instance where course-specific standards are inconsistent with the standards set out in this policy, the standards in this policy shall prevail.
- d. The University has the right to evaluate, investigate and adjudicate allegations of Breaches of Academic Integrity and to impose sanctions that reflect the nature and severity of any Breach

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<sup>1</sup> Kirkness, V. J., & Barnhardt, R. (2001). First Nations and higher education: The four R's - Respect, Relevance, Reciprocity, Responsibility. Knowledge Across Cultures: A Contribution to Dialogue Among Civilizations. R. Hayoe and J. Pan. Hong Kong, Comparative Education Research Centre, The University of Hong Kong. <https://www.afn.ca/uploads/files/education2/the4rs.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> *Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity*. International Center for Academic Integrity (ICAI). Retrieved October 17, 2022, from <https://academicintegrity.org/about/values>.

of Academic Integrity, but also has a responsibility to ensure that allegations of a Breach of Academic Integrity are handled according to the principles of procedural fairness.

#### **4. The Standard of Proof**

In determining whether a Breach of Academic Integrity has occurred, the University adheres to a standard of proof based on a balance of probabilities. A balance of probabilities means that an act is more likely than not to have occurred.

#### **5. Duty to Address a Breach of Academic Integrity**

All members of the University community have an obligation to address potential incidents of Breaches of Academic Integrity in a timely fashion.

#### **6. Relation of this Policy to other University Policies**

This policy deals exclusively with academic integrity and allegations of Breaches of Academic Integrity. If an incident reported as an allegation of a Breach of Academic Integrity involves more than one policy, the Vice President Students will determine the appropriate policy(-ies) and procedure(s) to be applied in consultation with the parties involved and this decision will be final.

A grade penalty imposed under this policy as a result of a finding of a Breach of Academic Integrity cannot be appealed under *ST3 Grade Appeals Policy*.

#### **7. Confidentiality**

##### **a. Confidentiality Principles**

- i. Confidentiality is required so that all parties involved in incidents of Breaches of Academic Integrity will come forward and so that the reputations and interests of those who are the subject of allegations are protected.
- ii. Confidentiality must be distinguished from anonymity and for an investigation into an allegation of a Breach of Academic Integrity to proceed, the identity of a University Official or any other individual making an allegation of a Breach of Academic Integrity and the details of the allegation will normally be released to the Student subject to an allegation.

##### **b. Confidentiality of Information**

- i. During the course of an investigation into an allegation of a Breach of Academic Integrity, sensitive personal information may need to be collected, used and/or disclosed only as necessary to complete the investigation.
- ii. Students are required to maintain the confidentiality of any and all information provided to them during the course of an investigation into an allegation of a Breach of Academic Integrity, except where disclosure is required by law or is necessary in order for the Student to participate openly in that investigation.

- iii. The University, including University employees, are required to maintain confidentiality over information gathered during the course of an investigation into an allegation of a Breach of Academic Integrity, except where disclosure is required in order to investigate and resolve the allegation or is otherwise permitted or required by law and/or any University policy.

c. Breach of Confidentiality

Any person involved in an investigation into an allegation of a Breach of Academic Integrity who breaches confidentiality may be subject to sanctions according to the appropriate University policy.

## **8. Protection from Retaliation**

Members of the University community involved in an investigation under this policy must be confident that they do so without fear of reprisal. Retaliation against any individual who is involved in an investigation under this policy will not be tolerated by the University and may result in sanctions according to the appropriate University policy.

## **9. Frivolous or Malicious Allegations**

Allegations of Breaches of Academic Integrity are serious matters and individuals who are found to have made frivolous, vexatious, or malicious allegations may be subject to sanctions according to the appropriate University policy.

## **D. DEFINITIONS**

Refer to Section A of *ST2 Procedures for Dealing with Breaches of Academic Integrity* for a list of definitions in support of this Policy.

## **E. RELATED POLICIES & LEGISLATION**

*University Act (British Columbia)*  
*Copyright Act (Canada)*  
*AR3 Confidentiality of Student Records and Files*  
*IM1 Copyright Compliance*  
*IM4 Confidentiality*  
*IM8 Privacy*  
*RS2 Integrity in Research and Scholarship*  
*ST7 Student Conduct (Non-Academic)*

## **F. RELATED POLICY**

*IM8 Privacy*

## **G. RELATED PROCEDURES**

*ST2 Procedures for Dealing with Breaches of Academic Integrity*

## **H. RESOURCES**

[Academic Integrity at KPU](#)