

WSU Student Honour Code

What is an Honour Code?

An Honour Code is a statement addressing ethical issues, including but not limited to academic integrity, that students deal with in their university life. Students pledge to adhere to the Honour Code when they initially register at university or when enrolling into their course. The Honour Code implies that students are willing to accept moral responsibility for their actions and are driven by internal moral convictions rather than external rewards and punishments.

Why is it important?

Often new students commit unethical practices without knowing it. Honour Codes help inform students about what is right and what is wrong before they start their course. Honour Codes set a standard for student academic work and inform them of their responsibilities.

What can be included in an Honour Code?

Honour Codes can include a pledge and/or a list of core values that underpin good study and research practices. Most university Honour Codes focus on academic integrity – cheating, plagiarism, collusion, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentations. Another point of emphasis is contract cheating. Technologies have made contract cheating easy as students can access online databases of ready-made papers. Many online contract cheating websites now offer to write custom-made assessments for a fee under the guise of providing academic support to students.

Why does Western Sydney University need a Student Honour Code?

Australia's Higher Education Standards (2015) require all universities to educate students in academic and research integrity. Western Sydney University sees academic integrity as one of the key pillars of student success in studies and future professional work.

Many initiatives have been implemented at Western to ensure that students and staff are aware of good practices in studies and research. In 2017 Western developed an Education for Academic Integrity Strategy. One of its recommendations was the implementation of a Student Honour Code. This Student Honour Code is intended as a student-led initiative that directs students, from the onset of their studies, toward academic integrity and the right ethical conduct.

What is the role of students?

WSU's Honour Code is developed by students and governed by them. Student representatives agree on standards and values by which every student at Western Sydney University should abide. They model ethical conduct by creating a Code and thus influence others toward making the right choices. Lecturers and staff are there to advise the students, but ultimately it is the students who take ownership of writing and implementing the code.

Need to know more?

Visit https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/academic_integrity/where_do_i_go_for_help

- Find out what academic integrity means.
- Learn who can help with academic integrity.
- Preview the academic integrity module. All students will need to complete it from 2019.
- Ask us your confidential question about academic integrity