



ACPSEM Plagiarism Policy

1 Purpose

To define the Australasian College of Physical Scientists & Engineers in Medicine's (ACPSEM) policy regarding plagiarism, in the context of participants undertaking education or certification programs with ACPSEM.

2 Overview

The ACPSEM is committed to maintaining the integrity of its education and certification programs. ACPSEM strives to ensure efficacy and safety through the establishment of expected standards of knowledge, skills, expertise and judiciousness, and that those working in the field genuinely earn and attain those standards. For tasks submitted for assessment, any reported case of suspected or known plagiarism will be investigated.

3 Policy Statement

The ACPSEM manages plagiarism through a preventative and educative approach. Consequences will be applied in cases where plagiarism is substantiated.

4 Scope

This Policy applies to any person or body undertaking any educational program with the ACPSEM.

5 Definitions

5.1 Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as the use of another person's ideas, words, data, or other material without proper acknowledgment. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Direct Copying: Reproducing text, data, or other material verbatim without citation.
- Paraphrasing: Rewriting another person's ideas or words without proper attribution.
- Self-Plagiarism: Reusing one's own previously published work or data without appropriate citation.
- Inappropriate Citation: Citing sources inadequately, incorrectly, or misleadingly.
- Unacknowledged Use of Systems: Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) writing assistants or other automated systems to generate content without proper acknowledgment.

5.2 Academic Integrity

Academic integrity means the commitment to act ethically, and with honesty, respect, and fairness in creating, submitting, or otherwise communicating information in any ACPSEM education or certification context.

5.3 Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI), including Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) or Large Language Models (LLM's), can create new content by learning from and mimicking large amounts of data, based on user prompts.



6 Responsibilities

Participants undertaking educational or certification programs with ACPSEM:

- Are expected to produce original work and appropriately cite all sources used, including any AI systems or writing assistants.
- Must educate themselves on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it.

The persons or bodies involved in the coordination, delivery and assessment of educational activities:

- Are obligated to report suspected cases of plagiarism by sending an email to the ACPSEM Education Manager at education@acpsem.org.au.

The ACPSEM Education Manager:

- Will acknowledge and perform an initial review of reported cases of plagiarism.
- Report cases to the Professional Standards Board chair where required.

The Professional Standards Board (PSB):

- Will investigate reported cases of plagiarism and determine outcomes.

7 Reporting and Investigation Procedure

Confidential Reporting: Suspected cases of plagiarism will be reported confidentially to the Professional Standards Board (PSB) by the ACPSEM Education Manager.

PSB Investigation Process: The PSB will conduct a thorough and impartial investigation of reported cases. The accused member will be notified and given an opportunity to respond to the allegations.

Decision Making: The PSB will determine whether plagiarism occurred and recommend appropriate actions based on the severity of the offense.

8 Consequences of Plagiarism

The consequences of plagiarism are designed to educate and deter participants from engaging in such practices. Penalties will be applied progressively based on the nature and frequency of the offense:

- First Offense:
 - Written warning.
 - Mandatory completion of an educational course on plagiarism.
- Second Offense:
 - Permanent exclusion from the ACPSEM TEAP program.
 - Notification to relevant professional bodies, if applicable.

9 Appeals

A participant who wishes to appeal against a PSB ruling of plagiarism should refer to the [ACPSEM Grievance Handling and Appeal Policy](#).



10 Guidelines for the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Participants undertaking ACPSEM's Training, Education and Assessment Program (TEAP) and other programs are required to complete and submit written works for assessment. It must be recognised that Artificial Intelligence (AI), including Large Language Models (LLM's), generate output data that is synthetic. It is not new information or research. AI tools are non-human and use existing datasets to write predictive text, and because of this their output is not always reliable, nor is it always correct.

The ACPSEM does not totally ban the use of AI. It is recognised that some AI tools have applications that foster participant learning and understanding. AI technology should not however be used in place of original thought or content creation. Using AI technology to generate material for assessment and then representing this as one's own ideas, research or analysis, without acknowledgement, is considered plagiarism.

The use of LLM AI tools, such as ChatGPT, in written submissions as part of any ACPSEM education program must be ethical, transparent, and purposeful. Inappropriate or excessive use of AI technology does not currently support our authorship criteria and may be considered plagiarism. Notably an attribution of authorship carries with it accountability for the work, which cannot be effectively applied to LLMs.

The ACPSEM recommendations as to the ethical and responsible use of generative AI includes:

- Appropriately citing and referencing any text or output generated by AI in the submission, along with any other sources that are used.
- The participant must clearly indicate where in the assessment task AI-generated material is used.
- Understanding the AI tool's limitations and using it in conjunction with other sources to verify the credibility and reliability of the AI information generated.
- The participant needs to check the accuracy of all information generated by AI tools against reliable sources of information and understand that they will be responsible for any errors or omissions in material generated by AI, ensuring that final product is the participant's own work, and not just copied from an AI generator.

The use of an LLM (or other AI-tool) for "AI assisted copy editing" purposes does not need to be declared. In this context, we define the term "AI assisted copy editing" as AI-assisted improvements to human-generated texts for readability and style, and to ensure that the texts are free of errors in grammar, spelling, punctuation and tone.

These AI-assisted improvements may include wording and formatting changes to the texts, but do not include generative editorial work and autonomous content creation.

In all cases, there must be human accountability for the final version of the text and that it reflects the participant's original work.

11 Promoting Integrity and Education

The ACPSEM recommends undertaking an appropriate educational session on ethical practices, proper citation, the importance of originality, and the responsible use of AI tools. A suitable program is available at:

[All my own work: exploring academic integrity | OpenLearn - Open University](#)

12 Commitment to Academic Integrity

All participants are expected to adhere to the principles of academic integrity.



ACPSEM

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13 Review Frequency

A comprehensive review shall be conducted every five years.

Interim reviews shall be conducted as needed, based on significant changes in ACPSEM education programs, technology or regulations.

14 References

[ACPSEM Grievance Handling and Appeal Policy.](#)

Crown Institute of Higher Education: STUDENT ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND HONESTY POLICY AND PROCEDURE: A19 Student Academic Integrity and Honesty 3.1

<https://www.cihe.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/QA19-Student-Academic-Integrity-and-Honesty-3.1.pdf>

James Cook University website on 'Generative Artificial Technology'

<https://www.jcu.edu.au/students/learning-centre/during-the-study-period/academic-integrity/generative-artificial-intelligence>

James Cook University policy library, Academic Governance: "Coursework Academic Integrity Policy"

<https://www.jcu.edu.au/policy/academic-governance/learning-and-teaching/coursework-academic-integrity-policy>



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