

Code of Conduct for Students

Policy Category	Policy		
Review	Three years from the date of approval		
Policy Code	GP010		
Contacts	policy@imc.edu.au		
Version	Approval Authority	Approval Date	Commencement Date
2023.11	Academic Board	27 November 2023	27 November 2023

1 PURPOSE

The Institute is committed to providing a safe, harmonious and non-discriminatory environment where students are encouraged to achieve their full academic potential. Students share the responsibility with the Institute and its staff to maintain the environment by behaving maturely and responsibly and showing respect for all other students, teachers, associates, and businesses within the campus precinct. Student conduct is expected to be consistent with the values of the Institute and contribute to their and others' experience at the Institute.

This Code of Conduct (Code) aims to set out student behaviour expectations at the Institute. In the event of a student's breach of this Code, the Institute may take disciplinary action. This document provides a framework for dealing with alleged student behaviour that does not accord with the letter or the spirit of the Code.

2 SCOPE

The Code applies to all students of the Institute, including any person who is enrolled as a student at the Institute, is yet to enrol but has been accepted by the Institute for a course of study, or has a place at the Institute but has been suspended or excluded from a course of study. It applies to individual students as well as student groups and organisations. The Code applies, irrespective of time or place, to any action that impacts the Institute, its students or staff. The establishment of misconduct may be based upon behaviour or actions occurring at any of the Institute's campuses, including online or off-site, whilst using the Institute's resources.

3 DEFINITIONS

Associate means any person the Institute engages in any dealings as required by the Institute.

Bullying means any act that is directed at a person and causes a reasonable person to feel humiliated, intimidated, offended, or in fear of harm to themselves or their property.

Bullying may occur in person, over the internet, through electronic and social media or through the actions of other people.

Discrimination means treating a person differently because of personal characteristics, including but not limited to gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, socio-economic background and disability.

Harassment means any form of unwelcome and unreciprocated behaviour that makes the situation unpleasant, humiliating or intimidating for the person who is the target of that behaviour. Harassment may be sexual or may arise from discrimination.

Misconduct means any conduct by a student prohibited under this Code as outlined in Section 4 below. This section outlines the guiding principles for establishing misconduct but is not an exhaustive list of misconduct. It should be considered along with the Institute's other supporting policies and procedures and relevant State and Commonwealth legislation. For Academic Misconduct, including but not limited to plagiarism, please also refer to the Institute's Student Academic Integrity Policy.

Property means any item, resource or facility owned or provided by a fellow student, teaching staff, the Institute or the campus.

Right to freedom of expression means a person's right to freely, yet reasonably, with good faith and within the constraints of law, say or express their opinion. This may occur through artistic or literary works, statements, publications, discussions or any other community or public interest purpose.

Sexual assault is a crime. It involves any behaviour of a sexual nature that causes physical or psychological harm.

Sexual harassment means making unwanted sexual advances, requests, comments and unwelcome physical conduct towards another, which would cause a reasonable person discomfort and offence.

Weapon means any object or substance, whether authentic or replica, which may cause or be capable of injuring, incapacitating or threatening injury to others and creating an actual or possible threat of harm.

4 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR ESTABLISHING MISCONDUCT

4.1 Personal Responsibility

- i. Students are responsible for reading and complying with this Code and all other policies and procedures of the Institute that may apply to them.
- ii. Students are responsible for reading, responding to or acting upon all relevant correspondence from the Institute, including phone calls, emails and staff notices on the Institute's Moodle system.
- iii. Students are responsible for complying with conditions relating to enrolment and progression, including observation of critical dates and deadlines and providing relevant information that is accurate and current.
- iv. Students must avoid all circumstances and situations that may lead to a breach of this Code's terms and other terms proscribed by the Institute's policies and procedures.

- v. Individual students will be considered to have engaged in misconduct if they are part of a student gathering or group that breaches the terms of this Code unless they can demonstrate that they took appropriate action to dissociate from the group or prevent the misconduct immediately upon becoming aware of the group's misconduct.
- vi. Students are not to conspire or incite other students to commit acts deemed as misconduct under this Code. This includes any face-to-face, electronic or social media communication.
- vii. For identification purposes, students must carry their student cards with them at all times while they are on the Institute's premises. When a student is asked to produce their student card to an official of the Institute, including security personnel or staff, and cannot do so, the student may be requested to comply with directions to leave the premises.

4.2 Academic Honesty and Integrity

- viii. Any act committed by a student that the Institute considers to be cheating, plagiarism, academic dishonesty, fraudulent behaviour, or any other type of deception that is not considered to be in the spirit of academic honesty or authentic production of individual work, will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action and applicable sanctions. Refer to the Student Academic Integrity Policy for more information.
- i. All students must ensure proper use of copyright material as outlined in the Institute's Copyright Guidelines. In addition, Research Higher Degree students must also comply with requirements of all relevant research conventions. The Institute provides a range of policy documents relating to research ethics and integrity (see Section 6 Related Documents).
- ii. During any period of examinations, students are to observe and follow the procedures outlined on the file cover sheet for that specific examination or assessment and the relevant examination rules as communicated or directed by examination supervisors. In addition, the Institute's Examinations Procedures Policy and the Examination Supervision Policy provide detailed information regarding the conduct required of examination candidates, including online candidates. Misconduct in examinations or other assessments includes but is not limited to non-compliance with specified examination procedures, including lack of cooperation with examination supervisors; provision of false identification or refusal to provide identification; disruption of an examination or disruption of fellow students while undertaking an examination; and failure to disclose unauthorised materials or equipment before examination commencement or any other action that is deemed to be cheating.
- iii. The Institute's Examinations Procedures Policy and Assessment Policy and Procedures (Coursework) provide information on procedures for students to apply for a supplementary examination or re-sit and assessment extensions. Students are required to be honest in all dealings relating to these procedures. This includes statements of need for special consideration and supporting documentation. The submission of false or deliberately misleading documentation, such as fake medical certificates, will be dealt with by the disciplinary process outlined in Section 5 of this Code.

4.3 Cooperation and Respect for Others

- i. The Institute expects that students will respect the rights of other students and staff members to study and perform duties to the best of their ability. Students must not behave in any way that impedes the ability of others to participate in their usual activities at the Institute. Students are to conduct themselves respectfully and responsibly while in class. Any disruptive conduct will not be tolerated, and students will be asked to leave the classroom or online forum if they continually interrupt the lecturer or other students.
- ii. Students must comply with all applicable laws while on the Institute's premises. If any student causes harm to any other person while on the campus premises, the Institute may report the matter to the appropriate local authorities. Students must respect the Institute's property and the property of other students, staff or associates of the Institute or the campus and are not permitted to take any possession or use someone else's possessions without that person's permission.
- iii. The Institute expects that students will cooperate with staff and will not obstruct staff in performing their duties. This includes persons with the authority to give directions as a representative of the Institute, e.g. examination supervisors. Students must comply with reasonable directions and, if requested, show proof of identity. The Institute expects students to be honest in their dealings and will not provide false or misleading information.
- iv. To show respect for fellow students and staff sensibilities, students are expected to be appropriately dressed at all times on the premises of the Institute. Although the Institute promotes tolerance and a casual and comfortable learning environment, students are expected to dress appropriately and not in any way that offends fellow students and the Institute staff.
- v. The Institute acknowledges the right to freedom of expression and encourages diversity, creativity, innovative thought and intellectual opinion on matters relevant to the Institute and the wider community. While the Institute does not seek to hinder the right of its students to express themselves, there is an expectation that students will express themselves within the limits of the law and the values of the Institute. In expressing any opinion, students are always expected to respect the views of other students and staff.
- vi. The Institute is committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all of its students and staff, where all are entitled to equal opportunity and respect. Students are expected to uphold the Institute's commitment by showing tolerance and behaving in a manner free of discrimination, harassment or bullying.
- vii. Students are prohibited from discrimination, including victimising, antagonising or singling out any person or group of persons for any purpose or on any ground of discrimination. The Institute's Bullying Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Policy and Procedure provides details on what constitutes discriminatory conduct. Students are prohibited from inciting or encouraging any other person to participate in conduct that discriminates against any other student, staff member or associate of the Institute. Students should report any instances of discriminatory conduct. The Institute will investigate all complaints according to the procedures outlined in this Code and other relevant policies and anti-discrimination laws. Harassment is not tolerated at the Institute. Harassment includes any act of physical or verbal abuse, bullying, improper influence or

intimidation committed by a student upon others. Harassment may include an associate of the Institute or an associate of a student or staff member of the Institute. Bullying, due to its ongoing nature, is intimidating, threatening, and a cause of distress, and the Institute shows no tolerance for students engaging in this behaviour. Harassment and bullying can occur face-to-face or via social media, telephone or email. In upholding the Institute's stand on harassment and bullying, students must ensure that any such conduct is in no way condoned and should report the conduct.

- viii. Sexual assault is a crime. Any student engaged in this crime will be reported to the appropriate authorities.
- ix. Sexual harassment, in any form, is prohibited by the Institute. Sexual harassment is any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including, but not limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, persistent questions relating to a person's sexual orientation or sex life, or unwelcome requests for sex or sexual favours. Such conduct is considered sexual harassment in circumstances where a reasonable person would anticipate the person, the subject of the harassment, would be offended, humiliated or intimidated. Any student found to have engaged in misconduct that amounts to harassment or sexual harassment may face disciplinary action by the Institute and be reported to the appropriate authorities. Sexual assault is a serious crime and will not be investigated by the Institute but reported to police immediately.
- x. Students must respect the privacy of other students and staff members. The Institute undertakes to maintain confidentiality regarding personal details. Intentionally disclosing the personal confidential details of an individual, such as a student's sexual orientation, health conditions or religious beliefs to others in circumstances where that individual has not authorised or given permission for such disclosure is harassment.
- xi. The Institute encourages students to report instances of student or staff misconduct. However, students must not make false, trivial or uncorroborated allegations to the Institute or external authorities to harass another student or staff member or to achieve an ulterior motive.

4.4 Safety, Wellbeing and Respect for Property

- i. The Institute is determined to provide a safe environment for its students, staff and associates, and this responsibility is shared between all members of the Institute. Students are expected to behave in a responsible manner and within the interests of the Institute. Students are to respect and abide by all rules and regulations of the campus. If any student is found to be compromising the physical or psychological safety of others, immediate action will be taken, and the conduct may be referred for disciplinary action or reported to the appropriate authorities.
- ii. Students are not to engage in violent, threatening or offensive conduct, behaviour or language while on the Institute and the campus premises. Weapons or dangerous instruments of any kind are strictly prohibited. Students should understand and acknowledge that in addition to the Institute's policies and procedures, they are always bound to comply with all relevant and applicable laws and law enforcement authorities. The consumption, distribution or the creation of illicit drugs or alcoholic substances while on the Institute's premises are strictly prohibited. Under no circumstances are students permitted to have in

their possession any alcoholic substances, illicit drugs or drug paraphernalia. Students are prohibited from being drunk or under the influence of drugs while on the premises of the Institute and the campus. Students must not encourage other students or associates to consume drugs or alcohol. Where any illicit substance is given to another student, staff member or associate, whether accidentally, carelessly or intentionally without their knowledge or consent, the matter will be referred for disciplinary action and intervention by the appropriate authorities.

- iii. Smoking is prohibited in all buildings on the campus, including the toilets. If students wish to smoke, they may do so within the designated smoking areas, which are located outside the Institute's building. Students must ensure they are at least five (5) metres away from any doorway while smoking, as required by relevant legislation. Students must ensure that when using the designated smoking areas, they do not obstruct or block any access or walkway of other students, staff, associates, or users of the premises and should always be mindful of others.
- iv. Students are always to respect and maintain the Institute's and campus's property. Students must not cause damage, including but not limited to destruction of property, pollution or vandalising of any part of the premises, property, resources or facilities. Students must also refrain from putting up signs on the premises that may be obscene or derogatory of any subject or persons or contain illegal subject matter.
- v. Students must ensure they do not compromise or hinder others' experience or use of the Institute's property, resources and facilities. This includes blocking access ways for other users or members of the public on campus. Students are encouraged to report to staff any unsafe or unhealthy conditions for immediate action. See the Institute's Workplace Health and Safety Policy for information regarding maintaining a healthy and safe environment at the Institute.
- vi. Students are expected to be responsible when using the Institute's IT and communication facilities, including the Institute's Moodle system. Students must ensure that their use of these facilities is ethical and appropriate. Under no circumstances should students use, copy or provide access to passwords, access codes, or similar without proper authorisation.

4.5 Maintenance of the Institute's Reputation

- i. Students are expected to promote, maintain and embody the values of the Institute at all times. This includes any time students undertake work placements, or academic or other extra-curricular activities associated with the Institute.
- ii. Students must not use the Institute's name, intellectual property or the Institute's stationery for private or business purposes without appropriate authorisation.
- iii. Students are not allowed to disclose or share proprietary information and information not in the public domain related to the Institute, including the disclosure or sharing of confidential assessment material.
- iv. Students must not make any false representations regarding themselves as students of the Institute or another student or staff member. Falsification of academic transcripts or other documents provided or purported to be provided by the Institute is strictly prohibited.

5 DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

It is the responsibility of all staff and students of the Institute to inform the Senior Manager of Student Services of any misconduct. This may be actual misconduct or reasonably suspected misconduct.

If a student is alleged by a member of staff to have engaged in illegal activity under the laws of any State, Territory or Commonwealth jurisdiction, the matter shall be reported to the police of that jurisdiction for investigation.

5.1 The Disciplinary Process is as follows:

Step 1:

- A written complaint will be lodged with the Senior Manager of Student Services reporting on the alleged misconduct with any supporting material. The complaint should detail the nature of the misconduct and the identity of the person(s) involved.

Step 2:

- The Senior Manager of Student Services may conduct a preliminary investigation of the matter and assess the alleged misconduct in relation to this Code or any other policy or procedure of the Institute. All the parties involved in the preliminary investigation will receive a written notification from the Senior Manager of Student Services. Where there is a reasonable likelihood of misconduct following a preliminary investigation, a brief report of the incident will be prepared by the Senior Manager of Student Services and forwarded to the Dean or their delegate for further management and a proposed course of action or final determination.
- The Senior Manager of Student Services may choose, at their sole discretion, not to perform a preliminary investigation of the matter and may instead take any appropriate steps as deemed necessary to deal with the complaint. This may include progressing the complaint directly to the Dean or their delegate for further management.
- If the alleged misconduct is of a serious or criminal nature, the matter will be escalated to the Dean of School and/or the Principal, or their respective delegates, immediately to be dealt with in a manner deemed appropriate at the discretion of the Dean of School and/or Principal or their respective delegates, or may be reported immediately to the appropriate local authorities.
- The student to whom the complaint relates is to be notified of an allegation of misconduct made against them within seven (7) days from the receipt of the complaint by the Institute or following any preliminary investigation conducted by the Senior Manager of Student Services where a reasonable likelihood of misconduct is found. Where sensitive matters arise concerning a complaint, the Senior Manager of Student Services and the Dean may exercise discretion regarding giving notice where notifying the person involved would compromise the investigation or cause potential or actual harm or prejudice to the complainant.

Step 3:

- The Dean or their delegate will determine the matter and impose any relevant and appropriate penalties or disciplinary actions as they consider appropriate (consistent with Section 5.2 of the Code) within a reasonable period of the initial complaint being received. A notification of the decision will be sent to the student to whom the complaint relates at this time.
- If the matter is of a serious or criminal nature it will be referred to the appropriate authorities if such action is deemed appropriate. The Dean, the Senior Manager of Student Services and the Compliance Manager will liaise directly with the appropriate authorities in such circumstances.

Step 4:

If the student is dissatisfied with the outcome of the academic decision, the student can appeal by lodging a formal complaint with the Senior Student Services Manager within 20 working days of the receipt of the decision. (Refer to *Student Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure* for further information).

Step 5:

A final report will be prepared following the closure of the complaint and stored with the Compliance Manager, the Dean and the Senior Manager of Student Services.

5.2 Sanctions (Penalties)

The Sanctions that may apply following an investigation into the alleged misconduct can include:

- Meeting with the Dean for a verbal warning and explanation of the conduct that is expected;
- Meeting with the Senior Manager of Student Services for a formal discussion relating to the appropriate conduct that is expected;
- Attending a mediation-style conference with the complainant and/or other persons involved in the matter;
- The construction of a Behavioral Management Plan with the Senior Manager of Student Services or the Dean;
- Temporary or permanent suspensions and expulsions;
- If property has been damaged, a demand for students to pay compensation to restore or replace the property in question;
- Withholding of results and/or units being graded 'fail' for serious academic misconduct;
- Immediate suspension if grounds for serious misconduct have been established (such as conduct amounting to or reasonably considered to be harassment or illegal activity), or where there is any threat to the safety and wellbeing of other students, staff, associates or the Institute; and
- Referral to appropriate authorities for criminal investigation if the serious misconduct may be a criminal act or offence.

Any official written letters relating to a breach of this Code will be filed on the student record.

The Dean and the Academic Board, in their sole discretion, may impose a single sanction or a combination of any of the above penalties, or an alternative sanction that is appropriate to the circumstances.

6 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- i. Code of Conduct for Staff
- ii. Research Code of Conduct
- iii. Student Academic Integrity Policy
- iv. Copyright Guidelines
- v. Authorship Policy
- vi. Research Materials and Data Management Policy
- vii. Human Research Ethics Policy
- viii. Assessment Policy and Procedure Coursework
- ix. Examinations Procedure Policy
- x. Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Policy
- xi. Student Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure
- xii. Online Course Delivery Policy

7 Version Control

Historical	Approved by	Approval Date
2020.10	Academic Board	26 October 2020
2009.04	Academic Board	02 April 2009
2013.12	Academic Board	19 December 2013
2016.08	Academic Board	16 August 2016
2017.10	Academic Board	03 October 2017
2018.06	Academic Board	18 June 2018