Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is about honesty and responsibility in scholarship. This means producing original work, giving proper credit to others' ideas, and avoiding cheating or plagiarism. Essentially academic integrity means doing your assessments honestly and fairly. When you take exams, or write assessments, you should use your own ideas and words. If you use someone else's ideas or words, you need to give them credit, and reference them properly.

Supports available to you in ATU

The library website has lots of free resources that you can use in your own time. The library staff in your campus will assist you with writing skills, literary searches, referencing and citation skills. You can book an appointment for an online session or an in-person session via the library website.

Student digital backpack: This is a free online self-completion resource that has valuable information for you regarding writing skills, referencing, academic integrity, and study skills. You are awarded a digital badge when you complete the full course.

Lecturers: Your lecturers will provide you with information about your assessments, examinations and practical's. Make sure to follow the guidelines and instructions given to you by the lecturer.

Policy and Procedures- you are responsible for reading the ATU policies and procedures for academic integrity. You will find these in the student hub under academic integrity.

Turnitin Draft Coach- this is a free resource designed to help you improve your academic writing and research skills. It gives instant feedback on similarity checks, identifies missing references, assists with referencing and gives feedback on grammar.

How to act with academic integrity

Manage your time: Prepare well in advance for your assessments and examinations and create a realistic study schedule that suits you. This reduces your risk of cutting corners and copying someone else's work.

Understand Plagiarism: Understand what plagiarism means and learn how to avoid inadvertent mistakes.

Use reliable sources: Always use credible and reliable sources for your work. The reading list provided by your lecturer, peer-reviewed journals, books, reputable websites are the best place to start.

Reference properly: use the appropriate referencing style recommended by your lecturer. Tools like Turnitin Draft Coach will assist you.

Get help: The library staff are here to assist you with your writing skills. Also aske you lecturer for assistance too.

Review your work prior to submission: always review your work before you submit it. Use Turnitin Draft Coach to highlight any unintentional plagiarism or citation issues, grammar mistakes or spelling errors.

Artificial Intelligence Tools such as ChatGPT

One current concern regarding academic integrity is the use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, DALL-E and Bard, which can generate content, including text, images and music. While these tools can be utilised in many positive ways when used responsibly in the educational sector by both educators and students, they can also pose some challenges to academic integrity. It is important to note that tools such as ChatGPT frequently generate inaccurate and unreliable information and can produce fictitious references. Therefore, when you are undertaking assignments, you cannot rely on information generated by these tools.

You should always follow guidance given by lecturers with regard to using AI tools. If you are permitted to use such tools in an academic context, you should keep these guidelines in mind:

- **Citing Sources:** If you use information or ideas generated by AI tools, cite these similarly to how you would cite any other source. Provide proper attribution to the AI tool(s) used to acknowledge the contribution to your work.
- **Understanding and Verification:** Do not blindly trust the information provided by AI tools. These tools have limitations and might not always provide accurate or up-to-date information. Use critical thinking to evaluate the content they generate. Double-check facts, figures, and arguments they present by consulting reliable and credible sources.
- **Appropriate Use:** Use AI tools as resources for learning, brainstorming, and generating ideas, rather than as a shortcut to complete assignments without genuine effort. Remember that the goal of education is to develop your skills and knowledge. Always prioritize honesty, transparency, and responsible use of information in your academic endeavours.

You will be provided with more specific advice by the University and individual lecturers throughout the year with regard to the use of AI tools. You should note that if you use such tools knowingly and without referencing them in your assessments, this will be considered a breach of academic integrity and will be dealt with accordingly. If you are uncertain about whether a particular use of AI tools aligns with academic integrity, you should consult your lecturer.

Useful Resources

- ATU Freecourses resource on Academic Integrity, https://freecourses.atu.ie/course/view.php?id=131

- ATU Library Guide on Academic Integrity, https://atlantictu.libguides.com/c.php?g=388773

- Bower, Matt. 'Artificial Intelligence in Education', YouTube demonstration, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92y_oOXvj6c

- ChatGPT, 'I bring new and engaging ways for students to learn in the classroom', (article authored by ChatGPT), *Times Higher Education*, 18 January 2023, https://www.timeshighereducation.com/campus/i-bring-new-and-engaging-ways-students-learn-classroom

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- European University Association, 'Artificial intelligence tools and their responsible use in higher education learning and teaching', February 2023, https://eua.eu/downloads/publications/position_ai%20in%20lt.pdf

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- Todd, Vanessa. 'Referencing Generative AI and why students should take the CRAAP test', 1 March 2023, https://teche.mq.edu.au/2023/03/suggested-strategies-for-referencing-generative-ai-and-why-your-students-should-take-the-craap-test-advice-from-the-library/

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