

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY - IB

Related Policies

International Baccalaureate Assessment Diploma Programme

International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme Assessment Policy

Rationale/Purpose

Academic integrity in teaching, learning and assessment serves to promote personal integrity and upholds respect for others and the integrity of their work. In the IB, academic integrity is a key part of striving to be *Principled*, an attribute of the IB learner profile (International Baccalaureate Organization [IBO], 2013). It also helps to ensure all students have an equal opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they acquire during their studies. All students must avoid any form of academic misconduct and teachers should be ambassadors to promote good practice and demonstrate academic integrity.

The IBO (2023) outlines the key educational reasons for academic integrity:

1. To maintain fairness
2. To maintain trust and credibility
3. To develop respect for others.

This policy aims to:

- clarify and define academic integrity
- provide detail of the procedures followed in upholding academic integrity and dealing with academic misconduct
- outline the consequences and penalties for academic misconduct in the Middle Years Programme and Diploma Programme
- ensure that appropriate documentation is provided to meet IB and College requirements.

Definitions

Academic Integrity

A guiding principle in education and a choice to act in a responsible way whereby others can have trust in us as individuals. It is the foundation for ethical decision-making and behaviour in the production of legitimate, authentic and honest scholarly work.

Academic Misconduct

Deliberate or inadvertent behaviour that has the potential to result in the student, or anyone else, gaining an unfair advantage in one or more components of assessment. Behaviour that may disadvantage another student is also regarded as academic misconduct. It also includes any act that potentially threatens the integrity of IB examinations and assessments that happens before, during or after the completion of the assessment or examination, paper-based or on-screen. This includes behaviour in school, out of school and online.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The ability of a computer system to perform tasks that would normally require human intelligence, such as learning, reasoning, and making decisions.

Balance of probabilities approach

“Balance of probability” means that the decision-maker(s) with appropriate subject-matter expertise is satisfied an event or account is more likely than not to have occurred. It is used when deciding on a penalty for an alleged case of student academic misconduct or school maladministration where evidence beyond reasonable doubt is not available.

Collusion

Supporting academic misconduct by another student, e.g., allowing one's work to be copied or submitted for assessment by another student.

Duplication of Work

The presentation of the same work for different assessment components and/or program requirements.

Formative Assessment

A tool or process that teachers can use to improve student learning; it is about assessment for learning, rather than simply assessment of learning.

Formal Summative Assessment

The IB defines formal summative assessment as assessment directly contributing to the final qualification, represents the final summative assessment practice in the IB continuum of education.

Generative AI

A type of computer program that creates new content like text, images, audio, and video that resembles what humans can produce.

Legitimate Collaboration

Collaboration means working together with other students. There are occasions where collaboration with other candidates is permitted or actively encouraged. Nevertheless, the final work being submitted must be produced independently, even though it may be based on similar data. Even if a student has ‘collaborated’ with another student, the work to be submitted must be the individual's own.

Plagiarism

The representation and use, intentionally or unintentionally, of the ideas, words or work of another person or source (including AI) without proper, clear and explicit acknowledgment.

School Maladministration

An action by an IB World School or an individual associated with an IB World School that infringes IB rules and regulations, and potentially threatens the integrity of IB examinations and assessments. It can happen before, during or after the completion of an assessment component or completion of an examination.

Policy

The Merici College statements of mission and philosophy are clear and are aligned with the International Baccalaureate (IB) and the College community demonstrates and supports this philosophy. As part of this philosophy, it is expected that all students work with academic integrity and respect the work of others, and teachers support the development of academic integrity and information literacy across the College.

The College acknowledges that academic integrity is embedded in all programmes which adhere to the IB *Programme standards and practices* (IBO, 2024), specifically:

- Culture 3: The school implements, communicates and regularly reviews an academic integrity policy that creates cultures of ethical academic practice. (0301-03)
- Lifelong learners 4: Students grow in their ability to make informed, reasoned, ethical judgments. (040204)

Merici College has developed and implements this *Academic Integrity – IB* policy which has practices that are fair, transparent and consistent. It has developed systems to inform the College community and promote the ongoing implementation of academic integrity and demonstrates pedagogical leadership aligned with this philosophy in the *Teaching and Learning Core Document 2022* (Merici College, 2022).

This policy also defines the parameters of academic integrity, outlines the responsibilities of students regarding appropriate use and referencing of source materials in all assessments, and outlines the procedures followed if academic misconduct is suspected.

Roles and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the **student** to uphold academic integrity and ensure they have not engaged in any academic misconduct that may undermine academic integrity.

The role of the **subject teacher** and **Teacher Librarian** is to promote good practice. It is the expectation that subject teachers share the responsibility for creating a culture of academic integrity by modelling good practice in referencing and citation in their classroom and learning materials.

The **Head of IB** is responsible for ensuring the Merici College *Academic Integrity – IB* Policy aligns with IB expectations and is reviewed at a minimum once every programme evaluation cycle (every five years). They have a responsibility to ensure that teachers, candidates and legal guardians are aware of IB requirements concerning academic integrity. The Head of IB is responsible for reporting any academic integrity concerns relating to the IB where relevant, and to the Deputy Principal of Teaching and Learning.

The **Teacher Librarian** is responsible for liaising with teachers to update the *Merici College Referencing Guide* (Merici College, 2024), and shares some responsibility for promoting academic integrity and reporting any suspected misconduct to the subject teacher and Head of IB.

The *International Baccalaureate (IB) Academic Integrity Policy* (2023) is available to parents, students, and staff at Merici College on our College website for both Middle Years and Diploma Programme students and their families. All candidates for the IB Diploma will be provided with a copy of the *International Baccalaureate (IB) Academic Integrity Policy* and by enrolling in the IB Diploma Programme, students agree they have read and understood it.

Procedures for assessment and submission

Merici College expects all students at the school to act with academic integrity by adhering to the procedures below. When presenting new assessment work, students will be reminded of the guidelines about academic integrity and possible penalties for a breach of policy.

Referencing

All candidates for the IB Diploma and Middle Years Programme are expected to acknowledge use of the work or ideas of another person or source (including AI) in any work they may submit for assessment by using a standard style of referencing. This includes direct quotation, paraphrasing or summarising. This does not include common or generally known information, i.e., facts that can be found in numerous places and are likely to be known by a lot of people.

The *Merici College Referencing Guide* (Merici College, 2024) is our core document for students, parents and staff outlining the format required for referencing at Merici College, based on Harvard formatting.

Failure of a candidate to acknowledge a source for work submitted externally to the IB will be investigated by the IB as a potential breach of IB regulations. This may result in a penalty imposed by the final award committee.

Assessment submission

Students must submit work through the channels designated by the school, and as articulated on the specific task cover sheet. These include, but are not limited to, in-class tasks, submission directly to the classroom teacher, and digital submission through Turnitin via SEQTA for work that has been completed outside class time. This digital submission signifies that the work presented is their own.

In tasks that require submission via Turnitin, students may submit their work to Turnitin prior to the due date. This generates an originality report, giving the student the chance to correct any referencing issues and then resubmit as appropriate.

Staff will have access to Turnitin in order to assist with reviewing the originality and authenticity of student submissions, however, teacher judgement is still required. As students progress through assessment, particularly internally assessed work in the Middle Years Programme (Personal Project) and Diploma Programme, the subject teacher must sight work in progress to provide evidence that the final version is the students' own and reserve the right to question and interview the student about the authenticity and their understanding of their response.

Diploma Programme assessment

Diploma Programme students are to submit written IB Internal Assessment items and any items identified by subject teacher to Turnitin via Seqta.

When submitting work as formal summative assessment, Diploma Programme students will be required to submit IB related documents associated with Internal Assessment and Examinations.

Formative Assessment

Formative assessment is an essential learning tool to provide students with guidance and the opportunity to learn how to comply with academic integrity requirements and aligns with Merici Colleges' philosophy of continuous assessment. It is expected that students submit work for formative assessment that aligns with the *IB Academic Integrity Policy* (2023) and *Merici College Referencing Guide* (Merici College, 2024) requirements.

Formative assessment does not have any formal penalties attached to it from the IB, but internal measures may be taken to assist students and their families in understanding the importance of academic integrity in adhering to the IB requirements for formal summative assessment, contributing to their Diploma Programme or Personal Project (Middle Years Programme).

These internal measures may include any of the following depending on the nature of the breach:

- Investigation by the subject teacher of the suspected case of academic misconduct
- Interview of the student by the subject teacher
- Modelling of academic integrity by the subject teacher
- Interview of the student by the relevant Studies Coordinator and, in the case of Diploma Programme, Head of IB
- If a breach of academic integrity has occurred, then the teacher, in conjunction with the Head of IB will inform the student and their parent in writing of the breach and action taken
- In cases of serious misconduct, the Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning will be involved with interviewing the student
- Details of any case of academic misconduct must be recorded and the record kept centrally at the school
- Students will be required to resubmit the piece of work or activity where a breach of academic integrity occurred as a learning activity

Academic Misconduct

Examples of academic misconduct could include, but are not limited to:

- Taking unauthorised material into an examination, whether the student uses it or not
- Disruptive behaviour in an examination, including the distraction of other students
- Communicating with another student during an examination
- Submitting all or part of a paper from a source text (including generative AI) without proper acknowledgement
- Submitting materials which paraphrase or summarise another person or source's work or ideas without appropriate acknowledgement
- Submitting a digital image, sound, design, photograph or animation, altered or unaltered, without proper acknowledgement of the source
- Fabrication – intentional and unauthorised falsification or invention of any data, information, or citation in an academic exercise

If there is concern that a student is engaging in misconduct, then a formal process will occur.

Turnitin.com is a part of the process, though teachers who suspect a student of academic misconduct even with the use of Turnitin can follow the procedures below. In cases where students have hand-written assessments or produced something creative that is unable to be uploaded to Turnitin and misconduct is suspected, and interview will be conducted as stated below.

Academic Misconduct Procedures and Penalties – Middle Years Programme

In Years 7-10, the emphasis on penalties for academic misconduct is in the learning and reflection process. All concerns about academic misconduct will be investigated initially by the subject teacher involved and students must be given the opportunity to explain their case before a penalty is applied. Any student suspected of academic misconduct must be given a fair hearing and the opportunity to provide evidence of authorship.

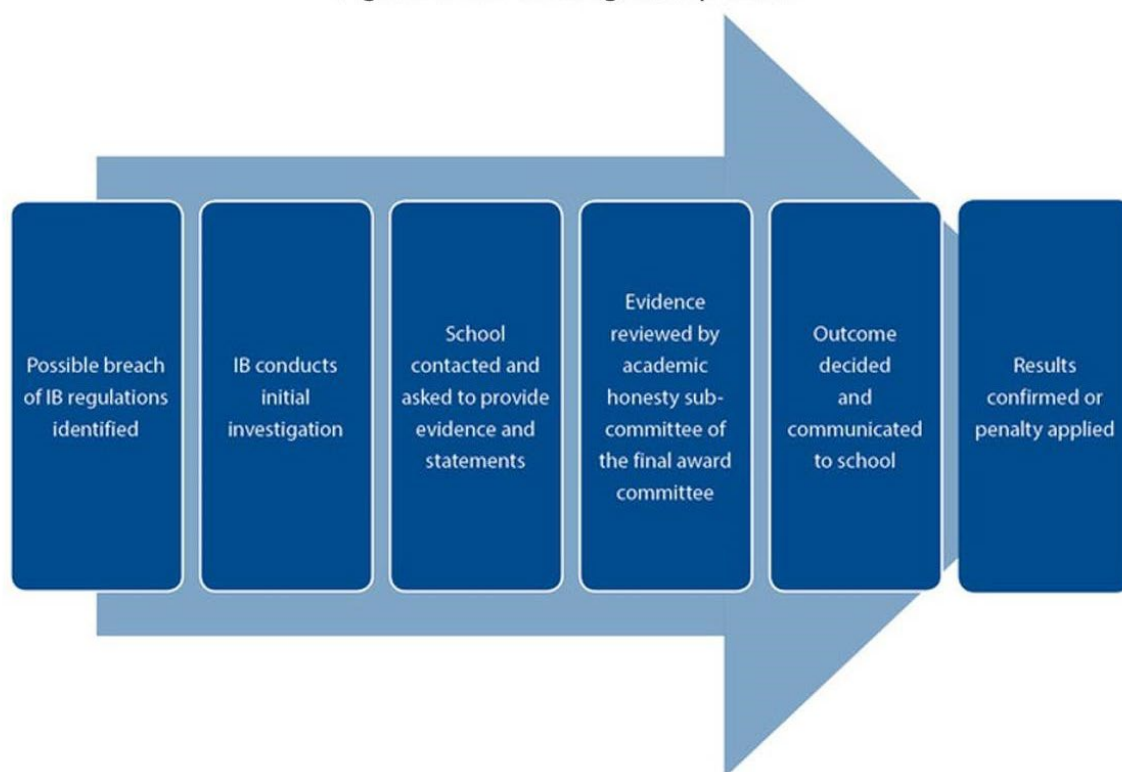
Any work that is found to show evidence of academic misconduct will involve a restorative process:

1. In first instance the student will be interviewed about the concern by the subject teacher. The subject teacher is expected to inform the Studies Coordinator about the incident and provide support to help the student correct the error.
2. This should be recorded on the school's database for behaviour incidents. The student must be provided with support so they can avoid making the same mistake again.
3. Student may be asked to sit again for the assessment item or resubmit work to show evidence of learning, or the teacher may mark the item of work without the plagiarised section. Alternatively, the student may be asked to complete an alternative assessment / piece of work.
4. Ongoing or repeated incidents of academic misconduct will involve the family of the student and more senior staff determined by the severity and frequency of concern (e.g., Studies Coordinator, Deputy Principal of Teaching and Learning, Head of IB, Principal).

For the Personal Project, which is submitted externally to the IB for moderation, concerns of academic misconduct will be investigated. College processes to monitor and deal with concerns of academic integrity before submission externally will be followed to avoid where possible any external penalties and investigation.

In cases where academic misconduct is suspected by the IB, or by College Staff once work has been submitted externally, IB processes will be followed as per the *Middle Years Programme Assessment procedures (2025)* as summarised below.

Figure 1: The investigation process



Academic Misconduct Procedures and Penalties – Diploma Programme

All concerns about academic misconduct will be investigated at a College level and students must be given the opportunity to explain their case before a penalty is applied. Any student suspected of academic misconduct must be given a fair hearing and the opportunity to provide evidence of authorship.

In first instance, for internal work assessed by the College, the student will be interviewed about the concern by the subject teacher. The subject teacher is expected to inform the Studies Coordinator about the incident. This must be recorded on the school's database for behaviour incidents. The student must be provided with support so they can avoid making the same mistake again.

Once academic misconduct has been established, the student's parents must be informed, either in writing or phone/in person. This must be recorded on the school's central database.

Any work that is found to show evidence of academic misconduct will incur a penalty. This may involve a reprimand or in more serious cases involving summative assessment items, the reporting of the candidate to the IB.

Penalties that may be applied once academic misconduct has been established:

- a) student may be asked to sit again for the assessment item or resubmit work to show evidence of learning
- b) teacher may mark the item of work without the plagiarised section
- c) the student may be asked to complete an alternative assessment / piece of work.

For cases where there are continued issues with academic misconduct, the College will call the student and their families in to discuss the possibility of withdrawing the student from the IB.

Formal Summative Assessment

In the completion of formal summative assessment, any incident of academic misconduct will be treated as a serious breach of discipline in assessment and significant penalties may be imposed.

If a teacher suspects academic misconduct, the following procedures are followed:

1. Copies of the assessment task, rubric and/or marking criteria, student response, plagiarised text/s and/or other evidence will be given to the Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning
2. The Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning will convene the Academic Misconduct Committee (Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning, Head of IB and Studies Coordinator of the relevant subject area) who will decide if there is a reasonable concern that academic misconduct has occurred
3. If a concern is found to exist, the Studies Coordinator and teacher will meet with the student and ask them to verify the authorship of their work
4. If the student is unable to verify their authorship, the Studies Coordinator will contact parents to inform them of the breach and offer the opportunity for the parent, student and teacher/Studies Coordinator to meet to discuss the breach and actions taken
5. The incident must be recorded and kept centrally by Merici College
6. A letter outlining the breach will be sent home by the Deputy Principal Teaching and Learning
7. If the case of suspected academic misconduct of summative assessment, the Head of IB, will then send a full report to the IB - where a decision on the action to follow will be taken.

External Penalties

External sanctions are those assigned by the IB or the College, in compliance with IB regulations, and relate specifically to the perception that academic misconduct has taken place in work which counts towards the award of the final Diploma.

If the amount of plagiarism is minimal, zero marks will be awarded for the assessment component, but a grade will still be awarded for the subject. This is referred to as 'Academic Infringement'.

If a candidate is found to have plagiarised all or part of any assignment, then no grade will be awarded for the subject. This automatically means that no Diploma can be awarded.

Misconduct during an examination will result in no grade being awarded for the specific subject involved.

If a candidate falsifies a Creativity, activity, service (CAS) record, no Diploma will be issued until 12 months after the examination session have passed. The CAS record will need to be correctly completed.

If the case of malpractice is very serious, the candidate may not be allowed to re-register for examinations in any future session.

An IB Diploma may be withdrawn from a candidate at any time if malpractice is subsequently established.

Right to Appeal

Students have the right to appeal against the outcome of the College investigation into academic misconduct.

If a student disagrees with the investigation into academic misconduct, they may apply in writing to the Head of IB who will review the process taken and the penalties applied.

Before appealing, students and their families are encouraged to:

1. Read the Merici College *Academic Integrity – IB Policy*
2. Read the IB *Academic Integrity Policy* (IBO, 2023).

External appeals (Diploma Programme)

In the case of external appeals in the Diploma Programme, an appeal may be made to the final award committee in the light of new factual evidence, within three months of the original decision. (Refer to *Diploma Programme Assessment Procedures* (IBO, 2021) for information regarding externally identified cases of misconduct).

Forms

Nil

References

- International Baccalaureate Organisation, (2013). *IB Learner Profile*. Cardiff, UK: International Baccalaureate Organization.
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