

# Cheating and Plagiarism

College of Nursing Education & Training Australia will not condone cheating or plagiarism in any form by students of the RTO and will ensure that these standards are upheld. Trainers must be diligent in reducing potential opportunities for cheating and plagiarism to occur by adhering to our policy on Cheating and Plagiarism.

## 1.1 Definition of Cheating

Cheating is defined as obtaining or attempting to obtain, or aiding another to obtain credit for work, or any improvement in evaluation of performance, by any dishonest or deceptive means. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: lying; copying from another's test or examination; discussion at any time of answers or questions on an examination or test, unless such discussion is specifically authorized by the instructor; taking or receiving copies of an exam without the permission of the instructor; using or displaying notes, "cheat sheets," or other information devices inappropriate to the prescribed test conditions; allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent same.

## 1.2 Definition of Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as the act of using the ideas or work of another person or persons as if they were one's own without giving proper credit to the source. Such an act is not plagiarism if it is ascertained that the ideas were arrived through independent reasoning or logic or where the thought or idea is common knowledge. Acknowledgement of an original author or source must be made through appropriate references, i.e. quotation marks, footnotes, or commentary. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to the following: the submission of a work, either in part or in whole completed by another; failure to give credit for ideas, statements, facts or conclusions which rightfully belong to another; failure to use quotation marks (or other means of setting apart, such as the use of indentation or a different font size) when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or even a part thereof; close and lengthy paraphrasing of another's writing without credit or originality; use of another's project or programs or part thereof without giving credit.

It is cheating to:

- use notes or other resources without permission during formal testing
- hand in someone else's work as your own (with or without that person's permission)
- hand in a completely duplicated assignment
- take work without the author's knowledge
- allow someone else to hand up your work as their own
- have several people write one computer program or exercise and hand up multiple copies, all represented (implicitly or explicitly) as individual work
- use any part of someone else's work without the proper acknowledgement
- steal an examination or solution from a Trainer/Assessor.

It is not cheating to:

- discuss assignments with your Trainer/Assessor or other students to understand what is being asked for
- hand in work done alone or with the help of staff
- get help to correct minor errors in spelling, grammar or syntax (sentence construction)
- discuss assignment requirements and course materials so that you can better understand the subject (this is, in fact, encouraged)
- submit one assignment from a group of students where this is explicitly permitted or required

- use other people's ideas where they are acknowledged in the appropriate way, such as referencing using footnotes, end notes or the Harvard system of referencing.

### **1.3 Penalties**

If you are suspected of cheating, your Trainer/Assessor will investigate to establish evidence to support the suspicion.

If there is evidence to support the suspicion, your Trainer/Assessor will notify the RTO Manager and set out the concerns to you in writing, requesting a time to discuss the matter. You will have the opportunity to counter the allegations made against you.

Once you have provided your information, College of College of Nursing Education & Training Australia may come to one of two decisions:

- It is a minor or unintentional offence, and you will need to undergo an alternative form of assessment, such as a short oral assessment, which may involve talking about the work or questioning. The penalty in this case is that you will receive the lowest level of competency or pass for all the learning outcomes being assessed.
- It is a serious offence, and you will fail the module. Repeated offences of cheating – minor or serious – will result in failure of the module plus a record on your student file, together with the reason.

You will be advised of all penalties writing.

### **1.4 What if I don't agree with the decision?**

If you are accused of and penalised for cheating and believe that the accusation is unjust, you have the right to appeal against the charge. This appeal must be lodged in writing with the educational manager of the program within one week of the penalty being imposed.

The appeal may be lodged against:

- the process
- the decision
- the penalty.

The appeal will be investigated, and a decision will be advised to you within a week of your appeal.

If you are having difficulties with your studies, you are encouraged to seek help from your Trainer/Assessor.