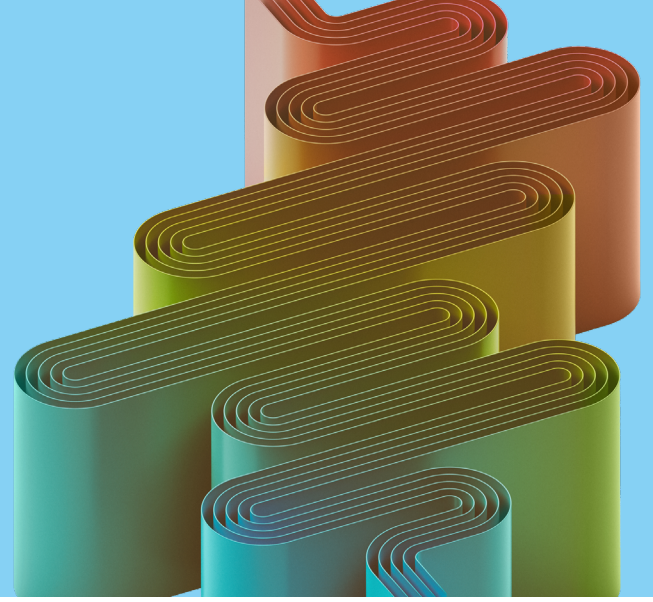


Transforming higher education training



Case study - Academic Integrity Griffith College, Australia

Griffith College provides a yearlong foundation pathway into higher degree university courses at Griffith University Southport (Gold Coast) and Brisbane City Campuses. The institution provides extra support for those with language or academic challenges, offering a positive, proactive approach to teaching students about academic integrity and artificial intelligence. Griffith College is committed to ensuring an easy transition from college to university and believes that all people, no matter their background, have the potential to excel when given the appropriate tools and support to do so. As part of this commitment, skills such as academic writing, research, referencing, and essay planning are taught throughout the first trimester to support students with their further studies.



Who did we speak to?

Patricia Jones, Program Convenor Diploma of Health Care.



What kind of subscription do Griffith College have?

Academic Integrity accessed via their Virtual Learning Environment Moodle.



Highlights

Griffith College has seen a decline in Generative AI integrity breaches in 2024 compared to 2023 since rolling out the new edition of *Academic Integrity*, down from 12.4% to 9.2%.

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Implementation

Griffith College started using Epigeum's Academic Integrity in 2019, and since 2021 have incorporated the programme as part of an *Academic and Professional Skills Course* which is embedded at the beginning of each student pathway programme. This course includes the Epigeum Academic Integrity modules, as well as in-house content from Griffith University. This content is largely taught via subject lecturers during in-person classes, and all resources are hosted on Griffith College's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Moodle for students to access.

Patricia Jones, the programme convenor, has been directly involved in developing and implementing this structure. She stated that 'the course aims to enable students to develop academic writing skills along with the relevant academic language' and that this active approach is because 'students at this level in a pathway programme need to be taught about academic integrity, not just doing it on their own and hoping they understand.'

The *Academic Skills* course is split into three sections to directly complement the students' needs. The first includes learning skills related to academic integrity, analytical and critical thinking. The second focuses on research skills, reading and analysing literature and applying knowledge to real world contexts. The third involves skills on preparing written and oral assessments including citation and references, paragraphing, and developing an argument. Patricia therefore appreciates the part the Epigeum modules play in offering a 'global perspective' to students on important issues to do with academic integrity.

Griffith College's first trimester is front-loaded with this *Academic Skills Course*. Initially, four hours of teaching are timetabled weekly, focusing on studying with integrity and emphasising positive skills and behaviour necessary for their studies and beyond. Learning then tapers down to two hours as the trimester progresses. This structure ensures students have the essential knowledge in time for their first assessments. The Epigeum modules and quizzes are reviewed, discussed and worked on collaboratively in class, allowing for active learning of ethical academic integrity principles which directly applies to academic skills content being taught and assessments. By completing content in class, the course transforms from a box ticking exercise into active learning modules which encourage students to think and prepares them for the future.

In addition to incorporating the updated Epigeum content into the *Academic Skills Course*, Patricia and her colleagues have recently developed a new interactive Moodle site for students on Artificial Intelligence, acknowledging that 'we can't talk about academic integrity without talking about artificial intelligence.' The homepage includes a Padlet for students to informally discuss their thoughts surrounding Generative AI, alongside resources, FAQs and context of AI in a student's future career. Patricia is also considering uploading Epigeum's Academic Integrity modules here too so that students can access the content as a refresher.

Staff at Griffith College must also take the 4 staff-facing modules of *Academic Integrity*, as Patricia believes that 'what educators need is some really good solid resources or information on assessment and academic integrity in the age of AI.' This is reported in their professional development plan with their manager and ensures that every member of the college community promotes best academic practice in their role. To accompany this, Patricia has also developed a dedicated site for staff with discussion boards, tips for teaching the Academic Integrity module, guides for raising breaches and TESQA guidance. Patricia asserts that 'having a guide for escalating penalties and education for the teaching staff has given teachers confidence.'

To promote the course to staff, each trimester Patricia presents the content at a Griffith College teacher's meeting, and also runs lunchtime community of practice sessions for teachers. These interactive sessions are recorded and fit around staff's busy schedules. So far 40% of teaching staff have taken the course since the new Epigeum modules launched in January 2024. When asked about how she encourages staff to take the modules, she stated that 'it's about being a friendly and positive face to promote these things, and consistency of delivering that information.'

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Outcomes

When Griffith college first rolled out the Academic and Professional Skills course in 2021, integrity breaches fell from 6.7% to 2.9%. However, with the advent of generative AI, breaches significantly increased in 2023 up to 12.4%, showcasing the need for consistent training for students at the college. Patricia acknowledged that 'assessment and academic integrity with generative AI, that's where we need help going forwards', as this is largely what breach levels were due to, rather than expected breaches involving paraphrasing, collusion, referencing and contract cheating. The newly updated Epigeum course - containing crucial content on Generative AI - rolled out in January 2024, and since then numbers have dropped to 9.2%, indicating a step in the right direction.

Going forwards, Trish is considering using an existing internal staff academic newsletter as an outreach point to increase engagement and awareness of the skills course. She's also investigating the blended learning resources - documents which provide guidance for delivering in person training - as inspiration for training future cohorts.

The impact of using this course will become more apparent over time. Griffith College recognises that with new technology and Generative AI students must continue to learn about academic integrity, and 'Epigeum modules support that 100%.' However, alongside this they recognise the importance of educating students on artificial intelligence, its use and misuse and are therefore excited to fully roll out the accompanying artificial intelligence portal.

What is clear is that by including the Epigeum programme into *Academic and Professional Skills* rather than as a side offering, students are being given a chance to achieve maximum engagement within the content in the context of their studies in class and online. This is leading to an open and proactive staff and student community, that is better informed in maintaining good academic integrity within the college environment and beyond.



Get in touch

To find out more about any of our programmes and what Epigeum can do for your institution, please get in touch.

