

QCE academic integrity eligibility requirement

Purpose

To inform schools about a new academic integrity eligibility requirement for the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), which will be introduced from 2026 for Year 12 graduates.

Background

In 2019, the QCAA developed a short, one-hour course to support schools and students to develop their understanding of ethical scholarship and effective academic practices.

In 2023, an Artificial intelligence working group (AIWG) was established to explore the opportunities and challenges AI technologies pose and inform the development of resources and guidelines for schools.

At the QCAA's school leader forums in July and August 2023, there was broad support for the introduction of an academic integrity requirement for the QCE.

The Queensland Government subsequently approved the addition of an academic integrity requirement to the existing QCE eligibility requirements prescribed in the *Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Regulation 2025*.

The new QCAA Regulation became law on 1 September 2025, however the new academic integrity requirement does not commence until 31 August 2026. Year 12 students graduating in December 2026 (current Year 11 students) will be the first cohort affected by this change.

Information

QCE academic integrity requirement

From 2026, Year 12 graduates will need to have completed an academic integrity course as part of the [eligibility requirements for the QCE](#).

The new requirement supports teachers to ensure students are aware of their responsibilities when engaging in the assessment process.

Academic integrity requirement options

The new academic integrity requirement can be met through completion of one of the following options.

The QCAA academic integrity course (online format)

Students can access the QCAA course via the Student Portal on the myQCE website. It takes approximately one hour and completion will automatically be recorded in student learning accounts. Students who have already completed this course in the Student Portal do not need to complete it again.

The QCAA academic integrity course (alternative format)

Schools can access the alternative format toolkit to deliver the QCAA academic integrity course to cohorts or individuals who may be unable to access or use the myQCE Student Portal to complete the online course.

Completion of the alternative format course will need to be recorded by schools in the Student Management application in the QCAA Portal, once the functionality is available in January 2026. The record of completion confirms that the school principal or their delegate has approved the learning as an appropriate alternative to the QCAA's online course.

An equivalent academic integrity course

Schools that deliver their own academic integrity course, or use a third-party provider must ensure the program covers:

- the nature of academic integrity
- academic misconduct and how to avoid it
- effective academic practices, including:
 - time management and forward planning
 - sourcing appropriate information
 - ensuring work is original
 - ethical and responsible use of AI tools
 - accurately representing contributions or ideas from other sources (including collaboration and content created by AI tools)
 - appropriate referencing
 - drafting and editing skills.

Completion of an equivalent course will need to be recorded by schools in the Student Management application in the QCAA Portal, once the functionality is available in January 2026. The record of completion confirms that the school principal or their delegate has approved the learning as an appropriate alternative to the QCAA's online course.

QCE resources

The QCAA is updating existing QCE resources, including the *QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook v6.0*, to reflect the new requirement and will publish new versions in Term 1 2026.

What you need to do

- Bring this memo to the attention of relevant staff at your school
- Encourage current Year 11 students to complete the QCAA academic integrity course via the Student Portal on the [myQCE website](#) as soon as possible, so it informs the remainder of their senior schooling.
- Access the QCAA academic integrity alternative format toolkit via the Noticeboard on the [QCAA Portal](#) for cohorts or individuals who may be unable to access or use the Student Portal.
- Ensure that any equivalent academic integrity courses in use at your school meet the new requirements.
- Encourage future cohorts to complete the course as early as possible in their senior phase of schooling so they develop an appreciation of ethical scholarship and effective academic practices.

Finding out more

More information is available on the QCAA [website](#).

Please email QCEforschools@qcaa.qld.edu.au or phone (07) 3864 0375.

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