

# St Thomas More College Senior Assessment Policy

May 2020

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## Scope

This policy provides information for teachers, students and parents/carers about roles, responsibilities, processes and procedures to ensure the integrity of assessment that contributes to the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). The framework for the policy is developed from the *QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook* available from [www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/certificates-and-qualifications/qce-qcia-handbook-2019](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/certificates-and-qualifications/qce-qcia-handbook-2019) and applies to Applied, Applied (Essential), General, General (Extension) subjects, VET school-based subjects and Short Courses across all faculties.

## Purpose

St Thomas More College is committed to an educational philosophy that encourages all students to achieve personal excellence by developing their talents and abilities. This policy is designed to build capacity as students work towards summative assessment completion for the QCE.

For students, this means making sure that the work they submit is their own and that they follow ethical scholarship practices, such as referencing.

For teachers, this means modelling integrity for students, and adhering to QCAA policies, procedures and guidelines in approaching assessment responsibilities, including administering assessment.

Parents/carers and others who support students in their learning should be aware of the guidelines for academic integrity. St Thomas More College will communicate information about academic integrity to our school community.

### Why is academic integrity important?

Students complete assessment to demonstrate what they know and can do at specific points during a course of study. When students genuinely demonstrate their learning they achieve results based on their own work and effort. Subject results indicate a standard achieved across the range of assessments required by the syllabus.

### Supporting academic integrity

Schools and teachers develop processes for teaching, learning and assessment that model academic integrity, such as:

- adhere to syllabus requirements for assessment specifications and conditions
- implement guidelines in the QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook
- acknowledge sources using appropriate referencing techniques in resources (e.g. slide shows, student handouts)
- adhere to copyright laws
- practise appropriate academic research.

## What is academic misconduct?

- Academic misconduct incorporates a broad range of behaviours which can falsely and inappropriately represent student learning.
- It is important that schools, teachers and students understand the different types of academic misconduct, and how they can be avoided.

## Principles

St Thomas More College expectations for teaching, learning and assessment are grounded in the principles of academic integrity and excellence.

Assessment includes any examination, practical demonstration, performance or product that allows students to demonstrate the objectives as described by the syllabus. Assessment should be:

- aligned with curriculum and pedagogy
- equitable for all students
- evidence-based, using established standards and continua to make defensible and comparable judgments about students' learning
- ongoing, with a range and balance of evidence compiled over time to reflect the depth and breadth of students' learning
- transparent, to enhance professional and public confidence in the processes used, the information obtained and the decisions made
- informative of where students are in their learning.

High-quality assessment is characterised by three attributes:

- validity, through alignment with what is taught, learnt and assessed
- accessibility, so that each student is given opportunities to demonstrate what they know and can do
- reliability, so that assessment results are consistent, dependable or repeatable.

## Promoting academic integrity

St Thomas More College promotes academic integrity by developing students' skills and modelling appropriate academic practices. The following whole-school procedures support this endeavour.

<b>QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook</b>	<b>Policy and procedures</b>
<b>Location and communication of policy</b>	The school assessment policy is located on the school website at <a href="http://stmc.qld.edu.au">stmc.qld.edu.au</a> and is included in subject selection guides. All questions regarding this policy should be directed to Academic Leaders or the Assistant Principal – Senior Schooling.

	<p>To ensure the assessment policy is consistently applied, it will be revisited at the beginning of each semester in subject classes. Relevant processes will be revisited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• at enrolment interviews</li> <li>• During SET Planning</li> <li>• when the assessment schedule is published</li> <li>• when each task is handed to students</li> <li>• in the newsletter and by email in response to phases of the assessment cycle.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Expectations about engaging in learning and assessment</b>  <a href="#">Section 1.2.4</a>  <a href="#">Section 2</a>  <a href="#">Section 8.5.1</a></p>	<p>St Thomas More College has high expectations for academic integrity and student participation and engagement in learning and assessment. Students become eligible for a QCE when they have accrued the set amount of learning, at the set standard, in a set pattern, while meeting literacy and numeracy requirements. Students are required to complete all course and assessment requirements on or before the due date for their results to contribute credit to the QCE.</p> <p><b>Student responsibility</b>  Students are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engage in the learning for the subject or course of study</li> <li>• produce evidence of achievement that is authenticated as their own work</li> <li>• submit responses to scheduled assessment on or before the due date.</li> </ul> <p>To emphasise the importance of sound academic practices, staff and students will complete the QCAA academic integrity courses.</p>
<p><b>Due dates</b>  <a href="#">Section 8.5.2</a>  <a href="#">Section 8.5.3</a></p>	<p><b>School responsibility</b>  St Thomas More College is required to adhere to QCAA policies for gathering evidence of student achievement on or before the due date.</p> <p>Due dates for final responses, checkpoints and drafts will be published in the assessment schedule and on the Student and Parent Portals. All students will be provided with their assessment schedule by the end of Week 3 each Semester.</p> <p>The assessment schedule will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• align with syllabus requirements</li> <li>• provide sufficient working time for students to complete the task</li> <li>• allow for internal quality assurance processes</li> <li>• enable timelines for QCAA quality assurance processes to be met</li> <li>• be clear to teachers, students and parents/carers</li> <li>• be consistently applied</li> <li>• be clearly communicated by the end of Week 3 each semester</li> <li>• give consideration to allocation of workload.</li> </ul> <p><b>Student responsibility</b>  Students are responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recording due dates in their diaries</li> <li>• planning and managing their time to meet the due dates</li> <li>• informing the school as soon as possible if they have concerns about assessment load and meeting due dates.</li> </ul> <p>In cases where students are unable to meet a due date, they will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inform the classroom teacher and Academic Leader as soon as possible</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide the school with relevant AARA documentation, e.g. medical certificate</li> <li>• adhere to alternative arrangements for submission of assessment, if applicable, as decided by the school.</li> </ul> <p>All final decisions are at the Principal's discretion. Refer to AARA information below.</p>
<b>Submitting, collecting and storing assessment information</b> <a href="#">Section 9</a>	<p>Assessment instruments will provide information about St Thomas More College's arrangements for submission of draft and final responses, including due dates, conditions and file types.</p> <p>All assessment evidence, including draft responses, will be submitted by their due date and where appropriate, via the College's academic integrity software – Turnitin (via Microsoft TEAMS).</p> <p>Draft and final responses for all internal assessment will be collected and stored in each student's folio. Live performance assessments will be recorded and stored as required for QCAA processes. All evidence used for making judgments is stored as per QCAA processes.</p>
<b>Appropriate materials</b> <a href="#">Section 7.1</a> <a href="#">Section 8.5.3</a>	<p>St Thomas More College is a supportive and inclusive Catholic school. Material and texts are chosen with care in this context by students and staff.</p>

## Ensuring academic integrity

St Thomas More College has procedures to ensure that there is consistent application of the assessment policy and that staff and students optimise opportunities to understand academic integrity. The following procedures are to be applied in this context.

### Internal assessment administration

<a href="#">QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook</a>	<b>Policy and procedures</b>
<b>Scaffolding</b> <a href="#">Section 7.2.1</a>	<p>Scaffolding for assessment helps students understand the process for completing the task. Scaffolding will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintain the integrity of the requirements of the task or assessment instrument</li> <li>• allow for unique student responses and not lead to a predetermined response.</li> </ul> <p>Across the phases of learning, students will gradually be given more responsibility for understanding the processes required to complete their tasks.</p>
<b>Checkpoints</b> <a href="#">Section 8.5.3</a>	<p>Checkpoints will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be detailed on student task sheets</li> <li>• monitor student progress</li> <li>• be used to establish student authorship.</li> </ul> <p>Students will work on assessment during designated times and show evidence of progress at scheduled checkpoints. Teachers will use these checkpoints to identify and support students to complete their assessment.</p>

	Academic Leaders and parents/carers will be contacted if checkpoints are not met.
<b>Drafting</b> <a href="#">Section 7.2.2</a> <a href="#">Section 8.3</a>	<p>Drafting is a key checkpoint. Types of drafts differ depending on subject, e.g. written draft, rehearsal of a performance piece, or a product in development. Drafts might be used as evidence of student achievement in the case of illness or misadventure, or non-submission for other reasons.</p> <p>Feedback on a draft is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provided on a maximum of one draft of each student's response</li> <li>• a consultative process that indicates aspects of the response to be improved or further developed</li> <li>• delivered in a consistent manner and format for all students</li> <li>• provided within two weeks of a submission of a draft.</li> </ul> <p>Feedback on a draft <u>must not</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• compromise the authenticity of a student response</li> <li>• introduce new ideas, language or research to improve the quality and integrity of the student work</li> <li>• edit or correct spelling, grammar, punctuation and calculations</li> <li>• allocate a mark.</li> </ul> <p>A copy of the feedback will be stored with a hard copy of the draft in the student's folio.</p> <p><i>Parents and caregivers will be notified by email about non-submission of drafts and the processes to be followed.</i></p>
<b>Managing response length</b> <a href="#">Section 7.2.3</a>	<p>Students must adhere to assessment response lengths as specified by syllabus documents. The procedures below support students to manage their response length.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All assessment instruments indicate the required length of the response.</li> <li>• Teaching and learning programs embed subject-specific strategies about responding purposefully within the prescribed conditions of the task.</li> <li>• Model responses within the required length are available where possible.</li> <li>• Feedback about length is provided by teachers at checkpoints.</li> </ul> <p>After all these strategies have been implemented, if the student's response exceeds the word length required by the syllabus, the school will either;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mark only the work up to the required length, excluding evidence over the prescribed limit</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allow a student to redact their response to meet the required length, before a judgement is made on the student work.</li> </ul> <p>And, annotate any such student work submitted for confirmation purposes to clearly indicate the evidence used to determine a mark.</p>
<b>Authenticating student responses</b> <a href="#">Section 7.3.1</a>	<p>Accurate judgments of student achievement can only be made on student assessment responses that are authenticated as their own work.</p> <p>St Thomas More College uses the authentication strategies promoted by the QCAA. The authentication strategies will be specified on assessment instruments.</p> <p>In cases where a student response is not authenticated as a student's own work, procedures for managing alleged academic misconduct will be followed.</p>

<p><b>Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments, including illness and misadventure (AARA)</b> Section 6</p>	<p><b>Applications for AARA</b></p> <p>St Thomas More College is committed to reducing barriers to success for all students. AARA are actions taken by the school to minimise, as much as possible, barriers for a student whose disability, impairment, medical condition or other circumstances may affect their ability to read, respond to or participate in assessment.</p> <p>The college follows the processes as outlined in the <i>QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook</i> available from <a href="http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/certificates-and-qualifications/qce-qcia-handbook-2019">www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/certificates-and-qualifications/qce-qcia-handbook-2019</a>.</p> <p>The College Principal manages all approval of AARA for students.</p> <p>All AARA applications must be accompanied by the relevant supporting documentation (outlined in <a href="#">Section 6.5.1</a>) and made as far in advance as possible to meet the QCAA published timelines. All evidence used to make decisions is recorded in the student's file by the principal or their delegate.</p> <p>Students are <b>not</b> eligible for AARA on the following grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unfamiliarity with the English language</li> <li>• teacher absence or other teacher-related issues</li> <li>• matters that the student could have avoided (e.g. misreading an examination timetable, misreading instructions in examinations)</li> <li>• matters of the student's or parent's/carer's own choosing (e.g. family holidays, sporting or cultural activity commitments)</li> <li>• matters that the school could have avoided (e.g. incorrect enrolment in a subject).</li> </ul> <p><b>Applications for extensions to due dates for unforeseen illness and misadventure</b></p> <p>Students and parents/carers must contact the principal's delegate (Assistant Principal – Senior Schooling) as soon as possible and submit the relevant supporting documentation.</p> <p>Copies of the medical report template, and other supporting documentation are available from the school, and on the College website (<a href="http://www.stmc.qld.edu.au">www.stmc.qld.edu.au</a>).</p>
<p><b>Managing non-submission of assessment by the due date</b> Section 8.5</p>	<p>Teachers will collect progressive evidence of student responses to assessment instruments at the prescribed checkpoints.</p> <p>The checkpoints on the instrument-specific task sheets provide details of the evidence that will be collected.</p> <p>In circumstances where students are enrolled in a subject but do not submit a final response to an assessment (other than unseen examinations) and where evidence of student work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provided by the student for the purposes of authentication during the assessment preparation period is available, teachers make judgments based on this</li> <li>• was not provided by the student on or before the due date as specified by the school and no other evidence is available, 'Not-Rated' (NR) must be entered in the Student Management system by the date published in the SEP calendar.</li> </ul>

	<b>In circumstances where a student response is judged as NR, the student will not meet the requirements for that subject.</b>
<b>Internal quality assurance processes</b> <a href="#">Section 8.5.3</a>	<p>St Thomas More College's quality management system ensures valid, accessible and reliable assessment of student achievement. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• quality assurance of all assessment instruments before they are administered to students using quality assurance tools provided by the QCAA</li> <li>• quality assurance of judgments about student achievement.</li> </ul> <p>All marks for summative internal assessment for General and General (Extension) subjects are provisional until they are confirmed by the QCAA.</p> <p>Results for Applied and Applied (Essential) subjects and Short Courses may be subject to advice from the QCAA.</p>
<b>Review</b> <a href="#">Section 9.1</a> <a href="#">Section 9.2</a> <a href="#">Section 9.5</a>	St Thomas More College internal review processes for student results (including NR) for all General subjects (Units 1 and 2), Applied subjects, and Short Courses is equitable and appropriate for our local context.

## External assessment administration

<b>QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook</b>	<b>Policy and procedures</b>
<p><b>External assessment is developed by the QCAA for all General and General (Extension) subjects</b></p> <p><a href="#">Section 7.3.2</a> <a href="#">Section 10.3</a> <a href="#">Section 10.4</a></p> <p>See also: <i>External assessment — administration guide</i> (provided to schools each year)</p>	<p>See the <i>QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook</i> (<a href="#">Section 7.3.2</a>) and follow the <i>External assessment — administration guide</i> for processes, roles and responsibilities of the school external assessment (SEA) coordinator, teachers and students.</p>

## Managing academic misconduct

St Thomas More College is committed to supporting students to complete assessment and to submit work that is their own, and minimising opportunities for academic misconduct. There may be a situation when a student inappropriately and falsely demonstrates their learning. The following are some examples of academic misconduct along with the procedures for managing them:

	Types of misconduct	Procedures for managing academic misconduct
<b>Cheating while under supervised conditions</b>	<p>A student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• begins to write during perusal time or continues to write after the instruction to stop writing is given</li> <li>• uses unauthorised equipment or materials</li> <li>• has any notation written on the body, clothing or any object brought into an assessment room</li> <li>• communicates with any person other than a supervisor during an examination, e.g. through speaking, signing, electronic device or other means such as passing notes, making gestures or sharing equipment with another student.</li> </ul>	<p><b>For authorship issues</b></p> <p>When authorship of student work cannot be established or a response is not entirely a student's own work the college will provide an opportunity for the student to demonstrate that the submitted response is their own work.</p> <p><b>For all instances of academic misconduct</b></p> <p>Results will be awarded using any evidence from the preparation of the response that is available that is verifiably the student's own work and that was gathered in the conditions specified by the syllabus, on or before the due date.</p> <p><b>For instances of academic misconduct during examinations</b></p> <p>Students will be awarded a Not-Rated (NR). See the <i>QCE and QCIA policy and procedures handbook</i> (<a href="#">Section 8.5.1</a> and <a href="#">Section 8.5.2</a>). Where appropriate, the school's behaviour management policy will be implemented. You will be referred to the RTC immediately. The Academic Leader and/or Assistant Principal will be informed. Your parents/ caregivers will be notified. You are required to complete a RTP plan, this will be negotiated with the Academic Leader/ Assistant Principal and then signed by your parents/ caregivers.</p>
<b>Collusion</b>	<p>When:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more than one student works to produce a response and that response is submitted as individual work by one or multiple students</li> <li>• a student assists another student to commit an act of academic misconduct a student gives or receives a response to an assessment.</li> </ul>	
<b>Contract cheating</b>	<p>A student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pays for a person or a service to complete a response to an assessment</li> <li>• sells or trades a response to an assessment.</li> </ul>	
<b>Copying work</b>	<p>A student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• deliberately or knowingly makes it possible for another student to copy responses</li> <li>• looks at another student's work during an exam</li> <li>• copies another student's work during an exam.</li> </ul>	
<b>Disclosing or receiving information about an assessment</b>	<p>A student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• gives or accesses unauthorised information that compromises the integrity of the assessment, such as stimulus or suggested answers/responses, prior to completing a response to an assessment</li> <li>• makes any attempt to give or receive access to secure assessment materials.</li> </ul>	
<b>Fabricating</b>	<p>A student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• invents or exaggerates data</li> <li>• lists incorrect or fictitious references.</li> </ul>	
<b>Impersonation</b>	<p>A student:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• arranges for another person to complete a response to an assessment in their place, e.g. impersonating the student in a performance or supervised assessment.</li> </ul>	

	Types of misconduct	Procedures for managing academic misconduct
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>completes a response to an assessment in place of another student.</li> </ul>	
<b>Misconduct during an examination</b>	A student distracts and/or disrupts others in an assessment room.	
<b>Plagiarism or lack of referencing</b>	A student completely or partially copies or alters another person's work without attribution (another person's work may include text, audio or audiovisual material, figures, tables, design, images, information or ideas).	
<b>Self-plagiarism</b>	A student duplicates work, or part of work already submitted as a response to an assessment instrument in the same or any other subject.	
<b>Significant contribution of help</b>	A student arranges for, or allows, a tutor, parent/carer or any person in a supporting role to complete or contribute significantly to the response.	

## Related school policy and procedures

Refer to other school policies as appropriate:

- School-based behaviour management policy
- appropriate use of electronic devices and resources policy