

# Student Academic Integrity



## 2024 Annual Report

Student Success, Deakin University



## Introduction

The management of student academic integrity at Deakin University takes a whole-of-organisation and educative approach. This approach supports students to use, generate and communicate information and ideas in an ethical, honest and responsible manner.

We aim to embed a culture of integrity that encourages the extension of these behaviours into a student’s professional life after graduation. All commencing students complete a compulsory zero credit-point academic integrity module. Student academic integrity is then reinforced throughout the student’s course by their educators, as well as through Deakin’s comprehensive study support

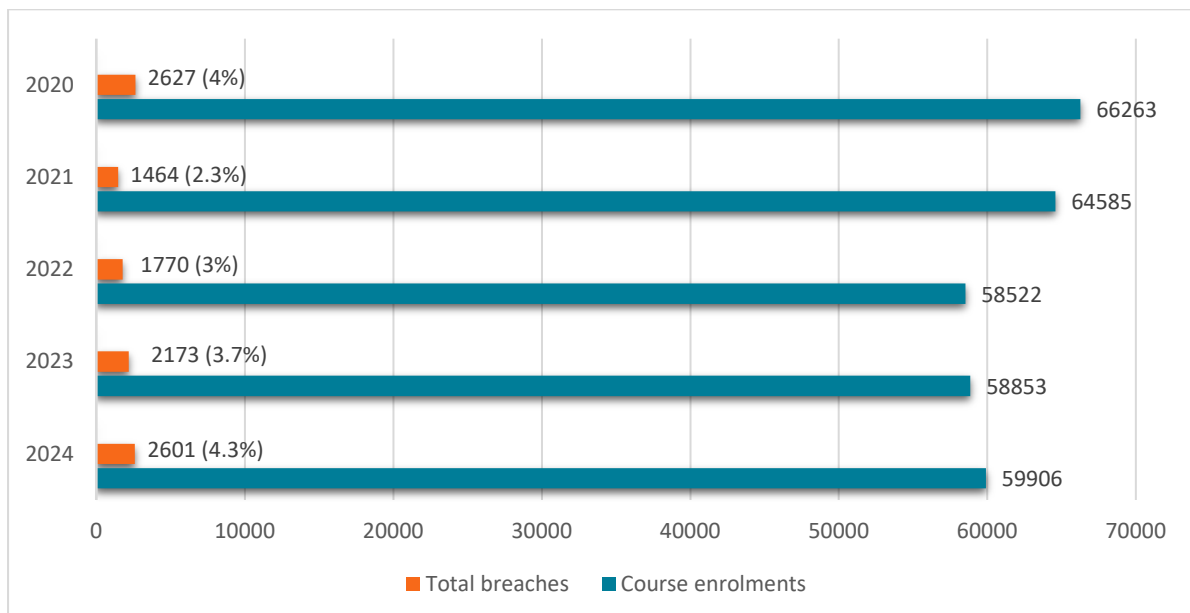
information, resources and communication campaigns. Deakin University Student Association (DUSA) is also active in promoting and supporting student academic integrity.

The University responds to allegations that students have breached academic integrity standards in a fair, consistent, timely and transparent manner. Where behaviour is found to have breached academic integrity standards, appropriate outcomes are applied. This public report presents annual data on student breaches of academic integrity at Deakin University during the 2024 academic year.

## Detection of student academic integrity in 2024

In 2024, Deakin detected 2,601 student academic integrity breaches by 1,535 individual students (3% of all students) – the University’s highest number of detected breaches since 2020. The number of detected breaches as a percentage of total course

enrolments (4.3%) increased slightly compared to previous years. **Chart 1** outlines student academic integrity breaches against total course enrolments 2020-2024.



**Chart 1:** Student academic integrity breaches against total course enrolments 2020-2024.

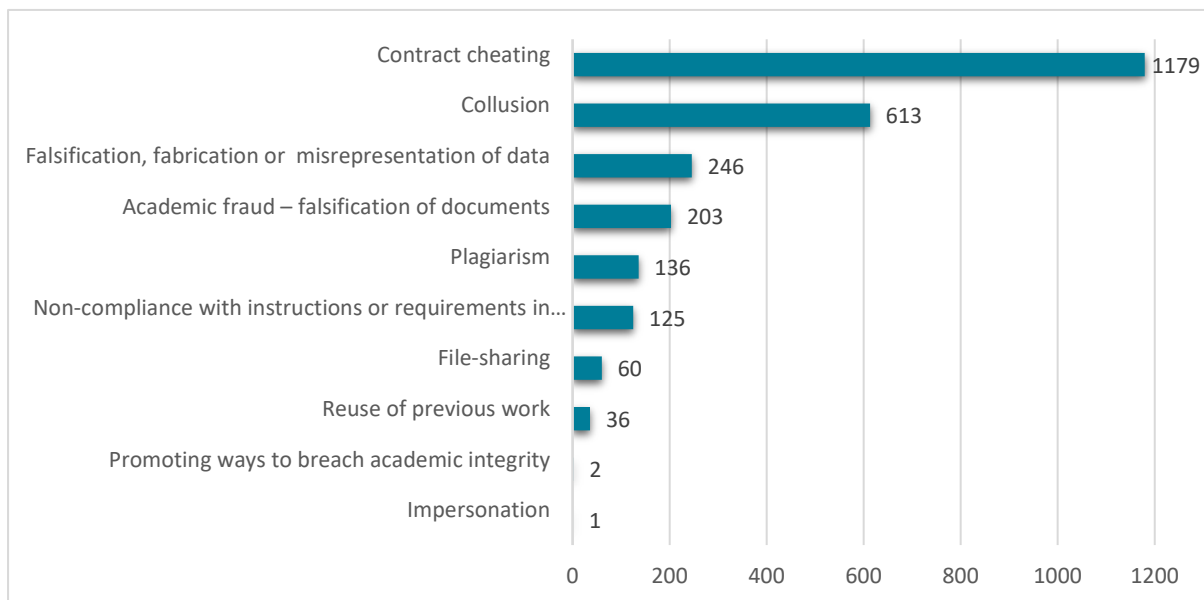
## Types of detected student breaches of academic integrity

Contract cheating was the most common academic integrity breach in 2024 (1,179 cases; 45%), increasing from 969 cases (43%) in 2023. Collusion was the second most common breach type (613 cases; 24%), increasing from 572 cases in 2023.

Falsification, fabrication or misrepresentation of data was the third most common category (246 cases; 10%). This is a substantial increase from 2023 (n=49, 2%) largely driven by misuse of generative artificial intelligence (genAI). There were only 136 (5%) cases of substantiated plagiarism in 2024, compared to 278

in 2023. This significant decline is in part due to the introduction in 2023 of a structured educative early intervention for poor academic practice. Volume of other breach types detected (fraud, non-compliance, file-sharing and reuse) remained relatively stable relative to 2023.

Overall, 687 detected breaches (26%) involved misuse of genAI, primarily contract cheating (427 cases) and falsification/fabrication (246 cases). **Chart 2** shows the number of breaches of each breach type in 2024.

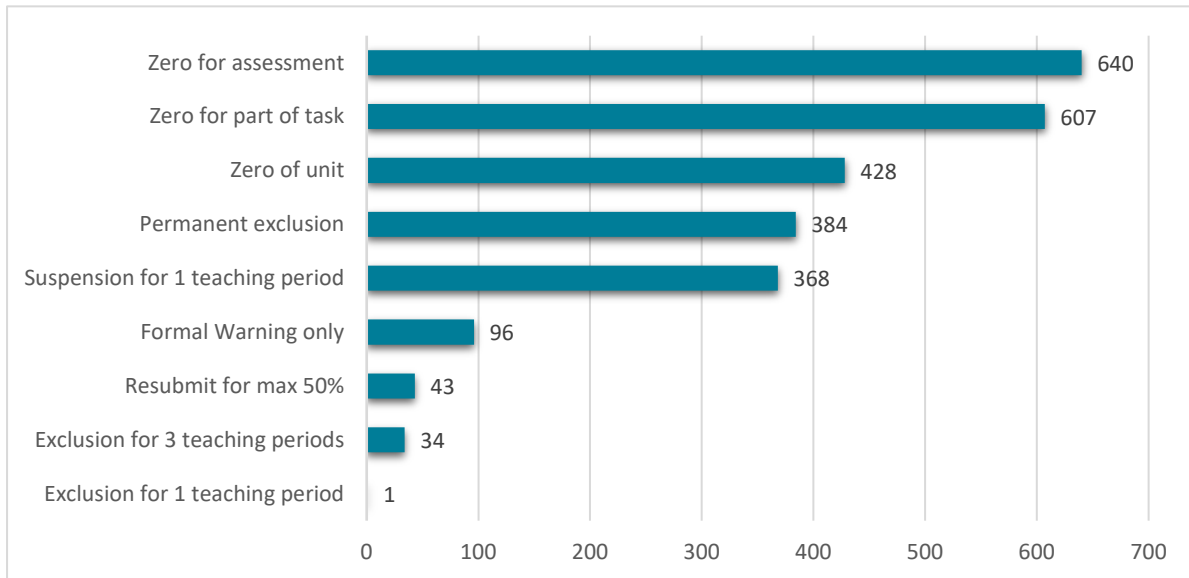


**Chart 2:** Number of proven academic integrity breaches by category in 2024

# Outcomes for student breaches of academic integrity

Schedule A of Deakin’s Student Academic Integrity procedure sets out a standard outcome for each breach sub-type, as well as two varied outcomes per breach sub-type which an Academic Integrity Committee may apply in mitigating or exacerbating

circumstances. All outcomes include a direction to engage with Deakin’s academic skills resources and support. **Chart 3** shows the range of outcomes imposed on students found to have breached academic integrity in 2024.



**Chart 3:** Outcomes for individual breaches (NB: not individual students<sup>1</sup>) by category in 2024

<sup>1</sup> Individual students may receive multiple outcomes due to multiple breaches.

## Key issues and actions

Key issues in 2024	Commentary and actions in 2025 to address key issues
<p><b>Increasing student academic integrity breaches involving misuse of genAI</b></p>	<p>Robust record-keeping relating to breaches of student academic integrity involving misuse of genAI was in place throughout the 2024 academic year. Over one quarter of detected breaches were found to have involved misuse of genAI and it is likely that true rates of unethical genAI use are higher.</p> <p>Deakin will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- implement an educative early intervention approach for students thought to have used genAI to generate references</li> <li>- co-design student guidance on ethical use of genAI with students</li> <li>- provide guidance for staff on the detection of academic integrity breaches associated with misuse of genAI</li> <li>- redesign assessment to better assure learning across a course.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Use of structured early intervention approach for poor academic practice</b></p>	<p>The number of recorded early interventions decreased between 2023 (n=800) to 2024 (n=540). This is not unexpected given in the first year of implementation (2023), all students at all year levels were eligible for an intervention. The number of eligible students has decreased and will potentially stabilise in subsequent years as the target cohort shifts to learners new to the University.</p> <p>Deakin will continue to monitor use of early intervention approaches.</p>
<p><b>Increasing rates of collusion</b></p>	<p>The number of detected instances of collusion increased in 2024 relative to 2023 and substantially relative to 2022, with a concentration in specific units of study.</p> <p>Deakin will support teaching teams to develop or enhance resources focused on developing students' skills in collaboration rather than collusion, and to integrate these resources into target units.</p>
<p><b>Increasing contract cheating detection</b></p>	<p>Contract cheating detection continued to increase substantially at Deakin in 2024, building on increased detection in recent years due to the University's development and implementation of proactive, at-scale detection technology.</p> <p>Deakin will continue its ongoing and systematic implementation of proactive contract cheating detection methods after each study period, prioritising response to alleged historical contract cheating by students due to graduate.</p>