
Academic Independence Policy and a Code of Ethics

Policy/Document Approval Body:	Academic Board
Date Created:	7 th March 2009
Policy Custodian:	Dean of Engineering
Policy Contact:	Accreditation Manager
File Location:	W:\Data - ALL.Standard\Policies and Procedures\EIT Policies and Procedures
Location on EIT website:	http://www.eit.edu.au/organisation-policies
Definitions (if required):	
Review Period:	Three years.
Revision No:	4
Date of Revision:	13 th October 2010
Purpose:	The purpose of this policy and code is to set out the EIT's attitude to academic freedom and its expectations of staff and students with regards to ethics.
Scope:	This policy and code is relevant for all EIT students and staff.
Overview:	
Essential Supporting Documents:	Acknowledgement is made to Engineers Australia for inspiration with regard to their Code of Ethics (Rev 2000)
Related Documents:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EIT Ethics Statement- Academic Honesty Policy- Academic Misconduct Policy- Student Code of Conduct- Student Consultation Policy

The EIT recognises that academic freedom is a right and responsibility of all staff and students and that it underpins the creation and dissemination of new knowledge. Academic freedom is central to the mission of the EIT.

A member of the academic staff of the EIT shall have the freedom, within the law, in his or her teaching, research and any other activities either in or outside the Institute, to:

- Question and test received wisdom.
- Put forward new ideas.
- State controversial or unpopular opinions.

In so doing they shall not be disadvantaged, or subject to less favourable treatment by the EIT when exercising this freedom.

The Institute is entitled to regulate its affairs in accordance with its independent ethos, traditions and the traditional principles of academic freedom. In doing so it shall have regard to:

- The promotion and preservation of equality of opportunity and access.
- The effective and efficient use of resources.
- Its obligations to corporate and public accountability.

Teaching staff employed by the Institute are expected to be aware of and agree to uphold the code of ethics set out in this document and the EIT Ethics Statement.

Engineering is a creative process of synthesising and implementing the knowledge and experience gained through the ages. It is used to enhance the welfare, health and safety of all, with due regard to the environment and the sustainability of the resources employed. It involves a diversity of related functions ranging from the development and application of engineering science through to the management of engineering works.

The EIT is bound by a common commitment to promote engineering and to facilitate its practice for the common good based upon shared values of:

- Ethical behaviour
- Competent performance
- Innovative practice
- Engineering excellence
- Equality of opportunity
- Social justice
- Sustainable development.

The community places its trust in the judgement and integrity of the EIT to pursue these stated values and to conduct their activities in a manner that places the best interests of the community above those of personal or sectional interests.

Code of Ethics

All EIT staff and students, in the practice of the discipline of engineering, are committed and obliged to apply and uphold the Cardinal Principles of the Code of Ethics, which are:

- To respect the inherent dignity of the individual
- To act on the basis of a well informed conscience
- To act in the interest of the community



These principles are encapsulated within and established by the Tenets of the Code of Ethics.

The Tenets of the Code of Ethics

1. The EIT shall place their responsibility for the welfare, health and safety of the community before their responsibility to sectional or private interests, or to other members;
2. The EIT shall act with honour, integrity and dignity in order to merit the trust of the Community and the profession;
3. The EIT shall act only in areas of their competence and in a careful and diligent manner;
4. The EIT shall act with honesty, good faith and equity and without discrimination towards all in the community;
5. The EIT shall apply their skill and knowledge in the interest of their employees and students for whom they shall act with integrity without compromising any other obligation to these Tenets;
6. The EIT shall, where relevant, take reasonable steps to inform themselves, their staff and students and employers, of the social, environmental, economic and other possible consequences which may arise from their actions;
7. The EIT shall express opinions, make statements or give evidence with fairness and honesty and only on the basis of adequate knowledge;
8. The EIT and their staff shall continue to develop relevant knowledge, skill and expertise throughout their careers and shall actively assist and encourage those with whom they are associated, to do likewise;
9. The EIT shall not assist in or induce a breach of these Tenets and shall support those who seek to uphold them if called upon or is in a position to do so.