

# Integrity of HSC school-based assessment and exams

## Overview of clarifications

This information sheet helps schools understand the clarifications in this group of ACE Rules, but schools must view the rules on the NSW Curriculum website.

The clarifications to **Integrity of HSC school-based assessment and exams** include:

### Malpractice

#### Defining malpractice

NESA has clarified different types of malpractice including misrepresentation, plagiarism, collusion, and breach of assessment conditions. NESA's clarifications are to ensure students understand what constitutes malpractice in HSC exams and the HSC minimum standard tests.

#### School malpractice policy

NESA has outlined the minimum components of a school's malpractice policy, and the timeframe for this policy to be provided to students. The clarified rules also contain links to advice on developing a malpractice policy.

#### Malpractice Register

NESA has strengthened the requirements for reporting malpractice in HSC school-based assessments. The clarified rules outline how and when school-based assessment malpractice offences need to be registered and finalised in the Malpractice Register in Schools Online.

#### Penalties and procedures

NESA has clarified the procedures for student appeals of suspected student malpractice. The rules also include the penalties that may be imposed by the Examination Rules Committee (ERC) for malpractice or a breach of assessment conditions in HSC exams or the HSC minimum standard tests.

NESA has published clarified ACE Rules on the NSW Curriculum website.

<https://curriculum.nsw.edu.au/ace-rules>

The clarified rules will be mandated from 14 October 2024, but schools must use the current rules until then. Schools must not implement the clarified rules before this date.

The clarified rules will apply to students commencing HSC courses from October 2024, sitting HSC exams in 2025, and receiving the RoSA from October 2024.

The current ACE Rules remain in effect for the 2023 and 2024 HSC. The current rules can be found at:

<https://ace.nesa.nsw.edu.au>

To find the right contact for enquiries about ACE Rules, visit the ACE Rules contact page:

<https://curriculum.nsw.edu.au/ace-rules/contact>

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## Serious and non-serious attempts

### Serious attempts

The clarified rules outline what constitutes a serious attempt in an HSC Exam and the HSC minimum standard tests.

### Non-serious attempts

NESA has clarified what constitutes a non-serious attempt in an HSC exam and the HSC minimum standard tests. The clarified rules provide additional context for what constitutes objectionable material in student responses.

### Penalties and procedures

The clarified rules outline procedures for the review of a non-serious attempt determination. The rules include how and when students can respond to a non-serious attempt determination by NESA that results in a course suspension. Penalties that may be imposed by the Examination Rules Committee (ERC) for non-serious attempts in an HSC minimum standard test or an HSC exam have also been outlined in the rules.

### HSC minimum standard test

NESA has clarified the rules for appealing a non-serious attempt determination in an HSC minimum standard test, including the grounds for appeal to NESA.

## HSC: All My Own Work

### Early commencement of Stage 6 VET courses

NESA has consolidated its requirements for HSC: All My Own Work under one rule. This includes timeframes for Year 9 and 10 students who are commencing Stage 6 VET courses early.

