

Law Enforcement Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

CHAPTER I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Academic Integrity Policy of the Law Enforcement Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter — the Policy) sets out uniform requirements for organizing educational, research, expert-analytical and publishing activities at the Law Enforcement Academy of the Republic of Uzbekistan (hereinafter — the Academy) on the basis of the principles of academic integrity and personal responsibility.

The Policy is aimed at ensuring the reliability, independence and verifiability of the educational and research outcomes obtained at the Academy, preventing academic misconduct, protecting freedom of scholarly creativity, and safeguarding human rights and dignity.

2. The Policy applies to the Academy's educational process in the forms of bachelor's, master's, retraining and professional development, doctoral studies and independent research, as well as to fundamental, applied, empirical, comparative-legal, criminological, sociological, digital and other research.

This covers training sessions, examinations and assessment tasks, independent study, abstracts, essays, coursework and project work, graduation qualification papers, master's and doctoral dissertations, scientific articles and monographs, conference materials, research conducted under grant and commercial contracts, expert opinions, methodological materials, and other academic products prepared on behalf of the Academy.

3. The Policy applies, within the scope of their authority, to professors and teachers, research staff, doctoral students, basic doctoral students, independent researchers, master's students, students and trainees, academic supervisors and advisors, reviewers, opponents, experts, editors, participants in grants and projects, as well as persons carrying out research or educational activities for the Academy on a contractual basis.

4. The legal basis of the Policy consists of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, legislation on education, science and research activity, copyright, personal data, state secrets, anti-corruption and cybersecurity, the Charter of the Academy, and internal documents regulating educational and research activity.

Where a special legislative act or a separate internal document of the Academy establishes a special procedure on a particular issue, the requirements of those documents apply.

5. The Academy recognizes academic integrity as an integral part of ensuring the quality of education and research, and as an institutional prerequisite for training highly qualified personnel for the law enforcement sector who think independently, rely on evidence and understand their professional responsibility.

6. The following key terms are used in this Policy:

academic integrity — the set of principles of preparing the results of educational and research activity independently and honestly, acknowledging the intellectual contribution of others, citing sources correctly, and not allowing deception or manipulation in assessment and in the research process;

academic fraud — using unauthorized assistance, means, persons or information in an examination, assessment, written work or other evaluation, performing work in another person's name, or having another person perform one's work;

conflict of interest — a situation in which a person's personal (direct or indirect) interest affects, or may affect, the proper performance of their official duties, and in which a contradiction arises (actual conflict of interest) or may arise (potential conflict of interest) between that personal interest and the rights and legitimate interests of citizens, organizations, society or the state;

plagiarism — appropriating another person's scientific, creative or other works and presenting them as one's own;

false authorship — listing as an author a person who has not made a significant scientific contribution to the work, or unjustifiably excluding from the list of authors a person who has made a sufficient contribution;

artificial intelligence tool — an algorithmic system used to automatically generate or process text, images, code, analysis, translation, conclusions or other content;

research integrity — ensuring reliability, accuracy and verifiability in formulating research ideas, in methodology, and in collecting, analyzing, interpreting and publishing data and results;

self-plagiarism — an author's reuse of their previously published or assessed work without sufficient disclosure and citation, presenting it as a new and independent result;

fabrication — creating data, respondents, documents, results, sources or evidence that do not actually exist;

falsification — unjustifiably altering, concealing or selectively reporting data, the research process or results, or presenting them in a misleading way;

informed consent — the consent freely given by a research participant after receiving understandable information on the purpose, procedure, risks, benefits, confidentiality and the right to withdraw from the research;

ethical review — an independent assessment, before the research begins, of its purpose, methods, participants, potential risks, informed consent, confidentiality and data management measures.

7. A text similarity score is not automatic legal or academic proof of plagiarism. In assessing similarity, the rules of citation, the indication of sources, standard legal expressions, methodological descriptions, the type of work and the author's independent contribution are analyzed on their merits.

CHAPTER II. AIM, OBJECTIVES AND KEY PRINCIPLES

8. The main aim of the Policy is to build a sustainable academic environment that ensures the reliability of educational and research results and encourages independent thinking, evidence-based conclusions, open scholarly dialogue and personal accountability.

The following key tasks are carried out to achieve this aim:

preventing academic misconduct;
 developing learners' skills in academic writing and working with sources;
 ensuring the objectivity of academic supervision and assessment;
 protecting human rights and data security in research;
 detecting plagiarism and assessing it on its merits;
 responsible use of artificial intelligence;
 fair consideration of reports of misconduct;
 monitoring academic integrity and institutional improvement.

9. The Policy is based on the following principles:

9.1. Legality

Academic and research activity is carried out in accordance with legislation, the Academy's internal documents and the requirements of professional ethics.

9.2. Responsibility

Each participant in the educational and research process is responsible, within their authority, for the content and reliability of the academic products they prepare, approve or assess.

9.3. Independence and honesty

Learners and researchers complete assignments or research work personally and independently, observe the permitted limits of collaboration, and do not conceal assistance received or sources used. Scientific conclusions are not adjusted to fit an administrative, personal, financial or other predetermined outcome.

9.4. Objectivity and fair assessment

Assessment is based on clear criteria that are announced in advance and correspond to the learning outcomes. Personal attitudes, official position, conflicts of interest or other improper factors must not influence grades or scientific conclusions.

9.5. Respect for copyright

Any text, idea, data, image, code or other intellectual contribution is indicated with the appropriate source. Authorship is granted only to persons who have made a direct scientific contribution to the work and have accepted responsibility for its content.

9.6. Openness and verifiability

Research and educational results are documented to a degree that allows them to be verified. Methodology, data sources, limitations, conflicts of interest, funding and the assistance of artificial intelligence are openly disclosed where necessary.

9.7. Human dignity and information security

In research involving human participants, the rights, safety and dignity of the person and the protection of restricted-distribution information take precedence over scientific interest. Official, investigative, procedural, personal and other protected information is processed on a lawful basis and with the prescribed protective measures.

CHAPTER III. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

10. The educational process at the Academy is organized on the basis of integrating academic integrity requirements into the content of each subject, module and form of education. Learners are informed of the forms of assessment in their fields of study and specializations, curricula and programs, and modules, and of the criteria for assessing them. The sources that may be used in completing assignments, the conditions for using artificial intelligence, the deadlines and the assessment procedure are clearly specified in advance.

11. Learners complete written, oral and practical assignments independently, indicate the sources they used and the types of assistance received, and do not present another person's finished work, in whole or in part, as their own.

During examinations and other assessment activities, the use of unauthorized literature, electronic devices, artificial intelligence systems, assistance from another person or pre-prepared answers is prohibited, except where permitted by the terms of the assignment.

12. Taking an examination or completing an assignment in another person's name, commissioning, buying or selling work, resubmitting finished work under a new title, unlawfully influencing assessment results, and submitting false certificates or documents constitute gross violations of academic integrity.

13. In group assignments, the contribution of each participant must be clearly defined. Presenting the result of collective work as individual work, or vice versa, and appropriating the contribution of another participant, are not permitted.

14. In graduation qualification papers, master's dissertations and projects, it is mandatory to develop the topic independently, use reliable sources, format quotations and references in the prescribed style, and indicate one's contribution to the results obtained.

15. Professors and teachers prepare assignments aimed at testing learners' independent thinking, legal analysis, evaluation of evidence, problem solving and professional reasoning skills.

16. Assessment criteria must be appropriate to the content of the assignment, clear and measurable, and applied on equal terms to learners studying in a particular educational program and form.

Learners are guaranteed the opportunity to appeal assessment results and to have them reviewed.

17. Professors and teachers may not complete assessment tasks on a learner's behalf or provide answers to pre-prepared assessment tasks. In research and educational-methodological activity, support for learners is provided in the form of advice, methodological recommendations, guidance to specific sources, and feedback on work prepared by the learner.

Support is provided to learners by organizing regular training seminars, or in the form of individual consultations, on academic writing, citation, selection of sources, use of legal databases, plagiarism prevention, digital literacy and responsible use of artificial intelligence.

18. Compliance with academic integrity rules is an integral part of developing the quality of education and professional ethics. In certain cases of violations committed for the first time, not intentionally and without causing serious harm, explanatory work is carried out with learners, and they may be given an opportunity to redo the work or remedy the deficiencies.

CHAPTER IV. INTEGRITY IN RESEARCH ACTIVITY

19. The topic, aim, objectives, methodology and data sources of research must be appropriate to the research tasks and scientifically justified. A researcher may not seek to confirm a predetermined conclusion by adapting the method to the result, concealing inconvenient data or selectively reporting data.

Primary data, questionnaire materials, interview recordings, statistical calculations, code, analysis tables and key decisions are documented sufficiently for the results to be verified and are stored for the prescribed period.

20. If personal data or restricted data protected by law are used in research, or if there is a risk of harm to participants' rights, psychological state, or social or professional standing, the researcher informs the Scientific Center of the ethical aspects of the research before it begins.

The researcher must address the purpose and conduct of the research, the information to be given to participants, obtaining their consent, possible risks and measures to reduce them.

21. When it becomes necessary to conduct research involving minors, victims, witnesses, persons deprived of liberty, persons in procedural or official subordination, or other persons whose ability to make free decisions is limited, additional protective measures must be established.

22. Participation in research must be voluntary. Participants must receive clear information on the purpose and process of the research, potential risks and benefits, data storage and use, information security, and the right to refuse and to withdraw from the research at any time.

Forcing a person in official, educational or procedural dependence to participate in research, threatening negative consequences for non-participation, or influencing a decision through unjustified incentives is not permitted.

23. In surveys, interviews, observation, focus groups, experiments, case analysis and digital observation methods, only the data necessary for the research purpose are collected.

Personal, official, investigative, procedural, state-secret or other protected data are used only on a lawful basis, with the necessary permission and within a clearly defined purpose. Where possible, anonymization and encryption methods are applied.

24. Uploading restricted-distribution data to unauthorized external platforms, cloud technologies or unapproved artificial intelligence systems is prohibited. In the event of data loss, unauthorized access or disclosure, damage-limitation measures are taken and the relevant competent authorities (state bodies) are notified.

25. Authorship is granted to persons who have made a worthy conceptual, methodological or analytical contribution to the work and have assumed responsibility for the results. Position, supervisory status, funding, administrative support or technical assistance alone are not sufficient grounds for authorship.

The composition and order of authors are, where possible, discussed before the research begins and revisited if contributions change. Demanding unjustified authorship, forcibly including an author, or excluding a genuine author is prohibited.

26. Covertly submitting the same or substantively identical results to several publications at the same time, artificially splitting a scientific result into multiple publications, and fabricating citations, sources, reviews or data are not permitted.

The review and expert evaluation process must be objective and free of conflicts of interest. A reviewer or expert does not use, whether personally, scientifically or otherwise, material entrusted to them in confidence, and does not disclose the information.

27. An actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest is disclosed in a timely manner. Where necessary, the interested person is removed from the relevant discussion, review, assessment or decision-making process.

28. The academic supervisor respects the researcher's independent views, does not do the work in their place, helps them comply with methodological and ethical requirements, provides regular and substantive feedback, and does not demand unjustified authorship or services.

29. Department discussions, research seminars, the "Science Hour", dissertation discussions and other academic platforms serve to develop the quality of work and scholarly debate. Criticism must be directed at ideas, methods and data rather than at the person, and must not turn into official pressure, discrimination or persecution for a scientific position.

CHAPTER V. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND HANDLING OF VIOLATIONS, AND MONITORING

30. Provided this does not conflict with the terms of the assignment, information security and academic integrity requirements, artificial intelligence tools may be used as auxiliary tools in education and research. Ultimate responsibility for the content of the work, legal norms, facts, quotations, statistics, methodology and conclusions remains with the human.

31. Artificial intelligence may be used for purposes such as structuring ideas, stylistic editing of text, organizing open data, and assistance with code or statistical analysis. However, information obtained in this way must not replace the author's independent analysis and views.

32. It is prohibited to use artificial intelligence to create a non-existent source, court document, norm, respondent, statistic, data or result and present it as genuine; to entrust an examination, review, expert evaluation or assessment

that must be performed independently by a human entirely to artificial intelligence; or to enter protected information into an unauthorized system.

33. The use of artificial intelligence that has significantly influenced the outcome of the work is indicated in the text of the work, in a note or in separate appendices, in accordance with the requirements of the assignment, publication or research. The author verifies important information, sources and quotations provided by artificial intelligence against primary or reliable independent sources.

34. Plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, academic fraud, misleading forms of self-plagiarism, unjustified authorship, creating false citations or sources, unlawfully influencing assessment, performing or having someone perform another person's work, unlawfully disclosing protected information, conducting ethically unapproved research, obstructing an inquiry and destroying evidence constitute academic misconduct.

Technical or editorial errors made in the research process, deficiencies in formatting collected sources, and legitimate scientific debate or differences in views on research methods are not assessed as violations of research integrity rules. In such cases, the matter is considered taking into account the error made, its consequences, the possibility of correcting it, and the presence of intent or negligence.

The gravity of a violation is assessed proportionately on the basis of factors such as the nature of the act, the degree of intent or negligence, the type and stage of the work, the actual or potential harm caused, repetition, attempts at concealment, cooperation and voluntary correction.

35. A report of a breach of academic integrity may be submitted in writing or through a protected channel established at the Academy. The report indicates, as far as possible, the facts, time, source and available evidence. Retaliation, pressure or discrimination against a person who has reported, given testimony or participated in an inquiry is not permitted.

The report is first considered for the existence of sufficient grounds. If there are sufficient grounds, it is considered by a commission free of conflicts of interest, on the basis of the rules of objectivity, information security, hearing the parties and verifying the evidence.

36. The substance of the allegation is communicated to the person, who is given the opportunity to provide explanations and evidence and to become acquainted with the materials within the limits of the law. The conclusion on a violation is based on the totality of verified evidence, not on assumption, anonymous suspicion or solely the result of an automated similarity system.

The facts established in the review, the rules applied, the grounds for assessment and the recommended measures are documented in writing. Disciplinary sanctions, attestation measures, retraction of a publication, measures concerning an academic degree or other special legal consequences are applied only by the relevant authorized body in accordance with legislation and internal documents.

Depending on the nature of the violation, the following may be recommended: correction of the error, reworking of the paper, re-assessment, additional training, restriction of the use of certain data, amendment of a scientific work or publication, referral of the materials to a competent authority, or other proportionate measures.

A person who disagrees with the decision has the right to file a reasoned appeal in the prescribed manner and within the prescribed time. The appeal is considered by a panel that did not take part in adopting the initial decision and is free of conflicts of interest.

If a violation is not confirmed, the necessary measures are taken to prevent unjustified harm to the person's honor, dignity and scientific reputation, or to remedy such harm.

37. The Academy's leadership ensures that the conditions necessary for the functioning of academic integrity rules are created. No predetermined outcome is demanded in any particular case.

38. The commission coordinating academic integrity issues, or another authorized collegial body, conducts ethical review, provides advice, assesses conflicts of interest, considers reports of violations, and submits conclusions and recommendations to the relevant authorized bodies.

39. The relevant units of the Academy, within their authority, introduce academic integrity requirements into educational and research processes, organize prevention and explanatory work, and submit proposals on identified systemic risks.

40. Each year the Academy conducts monitoring of academic misconduct, ethical review, appeals, plagiarism checks, information security, conflicts of interest and the use of artificial intelligence. The purpose is not to punish but to identify systemic risks and further improve the quality of education and research.

Based on the monitoring results, curricula, the set of assignments, academic supervision practice, plagiarism-checking procedures, information security, the use of artificial intelligence and mechanisms for handling violations are regularly improved.

CHAPTER VI. FINAL PROVISIONS

41. This Policy enters into force on the date of its approval and is published on the Academy's official information resources.

42. The Policy is fully reviewed at least once every three years. It may be reviewed on an extraordinary basis when legislation, the Charter or structure of the Academy, areas of educational or research activity, artificial intelligence technologies, information security requirements or academic risks change.

In reviewing the Policy, the results of annual monitoring, the practice of handling violations, the opinions of learners and staff, changes in research and publishing practice, and the Academy's strategic goals are taken into account.

Matters not regulated by this Policy are resolved in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Charter of the Academy and the relevant special internal documents.