

Authentication & Student Identity Verification Policy

Purpose

Washington University of Science and Technology (WUST) is committed to ensuring the authenticity of student identity and the integrity of academic work in all instructional modalities, including on-campus, hybrid, and online learning. This policy outlines the methods the University uses to verify that the student who registers, participates, and completes coursework is the same individual receiving academic credit.

1. Methods of Student Identity Verification

WUST uses a **multi-layered authentication framework**, which includes the following components:

1.1. Secure Student Information System (SIS) Credentials

- Each student is issued a **unique username and password** upon enrollment.
- Students are required to maintain the confidentiality of their login credentials.
- Unauthorized use or sharing of login credentials is strictly prohibited.

1.2. Learning Management System (LMS) Authentication

- Access to all online/hybrid courses requires SIS credentials.
- LMS logs record the user's **IP address**, login history, time stamps, and activity logs.
- Suspicious login patterns are reviewed by Academic Affairs and IT.
- **Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)** is required for all logins involving academic activity, providing at least two forms of verification (e.g., password + SMS/email code).

1.3. Identity Verification During Assessments

WUST may use any of the following methods depending on course requirements:

- **Proctored exams** (in-person or remote)
- **Photo ID verification** at orientation, advising, and assessments
- **Live or recorded verification** for oral exams or presentations
- **Student photos in the LMS (Populi or Canvas)** enable faculty to verify identities in class, whether on campus or online.
- **Turnitin or similar tools** to validate authenticity of written work
- **Randomized and personalized system-generated verification prompts** (e.g., questions about personal data previously provided to the University) during major assessments where supported by the platform
- **Timed quizzes and exams** to limit opportunities for outside assistance

1.4. In-Class and On-Campus Verification

For on-campus students, faculty verify enrollment through:

- Attendance

- Classroom participation
 - Matching student identity with institutional photo ID available on LMS
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2. Responsibilities

2.1. Student Responsibilities

- Maintain confidential login credentials
- Complete all work independently unless otherwise permitted
- Notify the University of any suspected account breach

2.2. University Responsibilities

- Maintain secure systems
 - Investigate identity discrepancies
 - Apply disciplinary actions if impersonation or academic fraud is detected
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3. Violations & Consequences

Violations of this policy include, but are not limited to:

- Allowing another person to log in as you
- Completing work on behalf of another student
- Attempting to circumvent identity verification methods

Consequences may include:

- Grade penalties
 - Course failure
 - Suspension
 - Termination of enrollment
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4. Policy Review and Maintenance

This policy is reviewed annually by Academic Affairs, Compliance, and IT to ensure alignment with ACCSC standards, federal/state regulations, and institutional needs.

5. Availability of Policy

This Authentication Policy is published on the **school's website** for full visibility.