



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS POLICY

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|---------------------------|--|
| Responsible officer | Dean and CEO |
| Contact | ceo@actheology.edu.au ; (02) 9262 7890 |
| Approved by | Board of Directors |
| Responsible Body | Board of Directors |
| Initial Approval date | 3 March 2017 |
| Initial Effective date | 3 March 2017 |
| Review date | 5 June 2027 |
| Superseded documents | None |
| Related documents | College Affiliation Agreement National Principles of Intellectual Property Management for Publicly Funded Research National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007) - Updated 2018 Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018 Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders |
| Related HE Standards | 4.1.1, 5.2 |
| Student Lifecycle Stage/s | All |

1. PURPOSE

To define the Intellectual Property rights of the ACT and provide guidance for students and researchers affiliated with the ACT on Intellectual Property issues.

2. DEFINITIONS

ACT is the *Australian College of Theology Limited*.

Academic staff refers to the teaching staff at **affiliated colleges**.

Affiliated College is an institution approved to offer an accredited higher education award of the ACT.

The Board or the College Board is the Board of Directors of the Australian College of Theology Limited.

Higher Degree by Research candidate is a candidate enrolled in the MTh, DMin, ThD and PhD degrees. Also known as an HDR candidate.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Australian College of Theology Ltd, students enrolled in the Australian College of Theology, with special reference to Higher Degree by Research candidates, researchers affiliated with the Australian College of Theology, academic staff of the affiliated colleges of the Australian College of Theology, and those employed by the Australian College of Theology.

4. POLICY STATEMENT



In general, the Australian College of Theology asserts its Intellectual Property rights ownership over syllabi, data sets and its own reports and research, subject to the exceptions listed below. The ACT also supports academic staff, HDR candidates, and researchers to promote and disseminate their research, and so does not, in general, assert Intellectual Property rights over their work.

5. PRINCIPLES

- 5.1 The Australian College of Theology Ltd asserts Intellectual Property rights over the syllabi of all courses accredited by the Australian College of Theology and student data sets.
- 5.2 The Australian College of Theology Ltd does not assert Intellectual Property rights over any work of students enrolled in an Australian College of Theology course, and explicitly does not assert IP rights over the work of Higher Degree by Research candidates.
- 5.3 In general, the Australian College of Theology Ltd will not assert Intellectual Property rights over the work of academic staff of any affiliated college of the ACT unless an explicit arrangement has been made to the contrary (for example, as part of a funding agreement).
- 5.4 In general, the Australian College of Theology Ltd will not assert Intellectual Property rights over the research and scholarship outputs of staff of the ACT unless an explicit agreement has been made to the contrary (for example, as part of an employment contract or funding agreement).
- 5.5 In general, the Australian College of Theology Ltd asserts Intellectual Property rights over the reports and work produced in the course of an ACT Ltd employee's duties, unless an explicit agreement has been made to the contrary.
- 5.6 ACT researchers, including HDR candidates, should be mindful that other individuals or groups may have a claim to a share of the IP rights of a project (for example, indigenous peoples, partner institutions or those who have funded the research) and should formalise an agreement on IP rights before commencement of the research.

6. RELATED LEGISLATION

[Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2021](#)

7. REFERENCES

[National Principles of Intellectual Property Management for Publicly Funded Research.](#)

[National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research \(2007\) - Updated 2018](#)

[Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018](#)

[Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders](#)



8. VERSION HISTORY

| Version | Approved by | Approval Date | Effective Date | Changes made |
|---------|--------------------|---------------|----------------|--|
| 1.0 | Academic Board | 3 March 2017 | 3 March 2017 | New |
| 2.0 | Board of Directors | 5 June 2023 | 5 June 2023 | Related documents and references updated; reference made to explicit agreements, indigenous people and other potential IP holders. |

Any hard copy of this electronic document may not be current as the ACT regularly reviews its policies. The latest version can be found online at actheology.edu.au