UNSW Policy Hierarchy

The policy hierarchy below shows documents included in the UNSW Policy Framework in order of precedence. A document lower in the hierarchy must be consistent with a document higher in the hierarchy. Where it is not consistent, the higher document overrules the lower document to the extent of the inconsistency.

Legislation includes Commonwealth, NSW and ACT laws with which UNSW must comply, including regulations and by-laws made under the University of New South Wales Act 1989 (NSW).

Codes state the behaviour necessary to meet the core values and obligations of the University. Council approves codes and they are university-wide document.

A code may:
- state principles (objectives that govern and guide conduct and decision-making)
- state university-wide requirements, and
- contain standards that state required behaviour to achieve the principles of the code.

Policies are documents that:
- state principles (objectives that govern and guide conduct and decision-making)
- state university-wide requirements
- authorise positions to make decisions to implement the policy on behalf of the University
- may authorise a position to approve changes to a standard or procedure section of the policy
- are approved by the Vice-Chancellor, and
- may contain:
  - standards that state required behaviour, levels of quality or an operating standard for a product, service or system, to achieve the principles of the policy
  - procedures that state university-wide requirements to achieve the principles of the policy, and
  - schedules which, if they need to be changed, can be submitted to the policy approving authority for approval separately from the policy as a whole.

Instructions:
- state university-wide requirements (or requirements that apply more widely than to an individual division or faculty) when approved by a person with the authority to do so under the Register of Delegations or their parent code or policy. University-wide instructions must be linked to the parent code or policy.
- state requirements that apply specifically to, a division, faculty or school and its students as authorised by a divisional head, dean, head of school, director or 'head of' positions.
- must be consistent with codes and policies; an instruction specific to a division, faculty or school must also be consistent with any university-wide instruction.
- must identify any UNSW-wide policy document that they supplement, and
- must be published on a division, faculty or school web page that is linked to the UNSW policy website.