This diagram depicts the hierarchy, and order of precedence, of documents included in the UNSW Policy Framework Policy:

The policy hierarchy requires that each document lower in the hierarchy must relate to, and be consistent with, a document higher in the hierarchy.

**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. Codes are approved by Council and are university-wide documents. A code may:

- state principles (objectives that govern and guide conduct and decision-making) and responsibilities for the UNSW Community
- 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.

A standard or procedure in support of a policy may be a separate policy document where a regulator
requires the University to have a separate policy document on a topic.

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.