

Research Misconduct Case 6

Overview of this session

In this session, learners will be introduced to plagiarism. Learners will view a brief case study and respond to questions related to the presented scenario.

Learning objectives

Through this case, learners will:

- 1) learn about ethical issues regarding plagiarism
- 2) learn about available resources related to the scenario

Lesson description

Instructional Event	Action		Time	Technology
	Instructor	Learner		
1. Introduce learning objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Give an overview of this session– State learning objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Listen and react to instructions– Recognize the necessity of this session	5 min	
2. Observe the case study video	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Present the case study and review discussion questions with audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Watch the case study and think about discussion question responses	1 min 20 sec	Internet capability
3. Talk about discussion questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Ask learners for feedback and discuss questions/topic– Facilitate discussion and provide answers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Ask questions related to the case study– Share ideas or experiences related to discussion questions/ topic	~11 min	
4. Explain essential concepts that learners should know	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Summarize discussion points– Reiterate core concepts of session	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Listen	5 min	
5. Provide feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Ask for feedback and address any remaining questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Ask anything related to this session	5 min	
6. Enhancing retention and transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Provide additional materials including links to other resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Review additional materials as needed	2 min	

Overview of case study

Dr. Lambert, a departmental DGS, is shown sending an email to the graduate students in her department reminding them to grant her access to their LabArchives accounts for data review purposes. Marcus, a current graduate student, approaches Dr. Lambert and asks if she can review some of his class essays that are stored in LabArchives. Upon reviewing the essays, Dr. Lambert notices Marcus has several instances of copying and pasting text passages verbatim from other authors' works and has not used appropriate citations or quotation marks to indicate he is referencing these other publications.

Discussion questions

1. What should Dr. Lambert do?

Dr. Lambert should confront the student directly with her concerns. It may be possible this was an honest mistake even though it seems unlikely at this point in the student's training and because of the persistence with which the problem is occurring. The student has not yet submitted the work to his professors as his own so it may be possible for the issue to be addressed and corrected before it gets out of hand and becomes verifiable academic misconduct. Dr. Lambert should explain plagiarism to the student, how to avoid engaging in this unethical practice and direct them towards university resources regarding plagiarism and the consequences associated with it. If the issue persists following this discussion, more serious action should be taken.

2. Should she contact his instructor and discuss the problem with her?

If the student has not yet submitted their work to their professor, it may not need to be disclosed just yet. The student asked for a review of his papers, so this presents a situation to address the problem with the student directly. If the work had already been submitted to the professor under the guise that it was the student's own work, it would be more ethical to disclose her concerns to the Professor directly and allow them to handle the situation. Dr. Lambert may consider reaching out to the student's mentor to disclose her concerns and this may allow for continued monitoring of the student's behavior by someone with a more personal relationship with them.

3. Should she alert her chair that there is a "cheating" graduate student in the department?

The issue may be able to be resolved without escalating the situation just yet. If there is a history of plagiarism, it may merit this response. It is also more appropriate to present the situation to the Professor and allow them to handle it according to the University policy. Usually, instructors address how they handle such occurrences in their course syllabi.

4. Should she tell no one else but treat the occurrence as a "teaching moment," working with the student to help him understand the seriousness of his action and how to correct it?

The previous answers address this question. It may be beneficial to get the student's mentor involved. Dr. Lambert may consider reaching out to the student's mentor to disclose her concerns and this may allow for continued monitoring of the student's behavior by someone with a more personal relationship with them.

5. Is there a way to monitor this student's future behavior without irreparably damaging his future?

Yes, and this is likely the most appropriate approach to take at this point. Dr. Lambert could do this by continuing to periodically check in with the student and by looping in the student's mentor to help address the problem moving forward.

Additional discussion prompts

- How would you have handled this situation? Would you handle this situation differently if this happened in the research environment or with someone in a more senior position?
- What is the university's policy on plagiarism?
- Are there any tools available that you can use to see if text has been plagiarized?
- What are potential consequences for engaging in plagiarism?
- What is the difference between plagiarism and self-plagiarism? Are the consequences different for engaging in one versus the other?
- Why do you think people engage in plagiarism? How can we help prevent this form of research misconduct from happening in our own research environments?

Additional resources

- UK ORI resources:
 - Webpage: <https://www.research.uky.edu/office-research-integrity>
 - UK Responsible Conduct of Research & Scholarly Activity webpage: <https://www.research.uky.edu/responsible-conduct-research>
 - Research misconduct webpage and reporting tool: <https://www.research.uky.edu/research-misconduct>
 - Link to policies: <https://www.research.uky.edu/research-misconduct/policies>
 - How to avoid plagiarism video: https://rwebmedia.ad.uky.edu/ORI/Research_Misconduct/Plagiarism/index.html
 - Authorship webpage: [Authorship and Collaboration | University of Kentucky Research \(uky.edu\)](#)
- iThenticate resource: <https://www.research.uky.edu/research-misconduct/ithenticate-uk>
 - * The Vice President for Research (VPR) has purchased an iThenticate subscription for full-time faculty. Each RCR-compliant full-time faculty member will receive 5 credits (uploads). Additional information can be found via the provided link. NIH provides iThenticate plagiarism check for selected users at this site*
- UK's Data Ownership Policy (Information and resources to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations requirements (both internal and external) with respect to Research Data management practices, data storage, data security, sharing, and dissemination of Research Data):
<https://www.research.uky.edu/research-misconduct/data-retention-and-ownership-policy>
- UK's Electronic Research Notebook (LabArchives) webpage (provides information on LabArchives including setting up a new account, logging in, and benefits):
 - Webpage: <https://www.research.uky.edu/ERN>
 - Email: LabArchives@uky.edu
- UK Ombud (Addresses Student Academic Rights and problems concerning the commission of academic offenses):
 - Webpage: <https://ombud.uky.edu/>
 - Plagiarism policy: [Plagiarism: What Is It? | Academic Ombud Services \(uky.edu\)](#)
- UK Administrative Regulations (AR): Administrative Regulations are policies adopted by the President to implement the Governing Regulations and provide for the general administration and oversight of the University.
 - Link to all ARs: <https://www.uky.edu/regs/administrative-regulations-ar>
 - AR 7:1 Research Misconduct: <https://www.uky.edu/regs/ar7-1>
- US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Office of Research Integrity (provides information and resources on RCR research and misconduct as well as general research information):
 - Webpage: <https://ori.hhs.gov/>

- *Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research*: <https://ori.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2018-04/rcrintro.pdf>
- Avoiding Plagiarism, Self-plagiarism, and Other Questionable Writing Practices: A Guide to Ethical Writing resource: <https://ori.hhs.gov/avoiding-plagiarism-self-plagiarism-and-other-questionable-writing-practices-guide-ethical-writing>
- Plagiarisma (free online plagiarism checker) <http://plagiarisma.net/>
- Plagiarismcheck.org (detects similarities and produces unbiased results; requires a subscription): <https://plagiarismcheck.org/>
- Similarity texter (a text comparison tool) <https://people.f4.htw-berlin.de/~weberwu/simtexter/app.html>
- PubPeer (Enables scientists to search for their publications or their peers' publications and provide feedback and/or start a conversation anonymously.): <https://pubpeer.com/static/about>