

What is Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as the act of presenting other people's ideas, works, or statements as their own from an academic perspective. It happens with students, researchers, and other scholars when they present research reports, assignments, and papers as their own when it is not the case.

It is considered **academic dishonesty** and can have serious consequences in education and research.

Types of Plagiarism

1. **Direct Plagiarism** - Copying text word-for-word without quotation marks or citation.
 2. **Self-Plagiarism** - Reusing your own previously submitted work without permission or acknowledgment.
 3. **Mosaic Plagiarism** - Mixing your words with copied phrases without proper citation.
 4. **Accidental Plagiarism** - Failing to cite sources correctly, even unintentionally.
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Examples

- Copying a paragraph from a book or website and not citing it.
 - Submitting a friend's essay as your own.
 - Reusing parts of your previous assignment without indicating it.
 - Using someone else's ideas or diagrams without credit.
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How to Avoid Plagiarism

- Always **cite sources** (APA, MLA, etc.)
 - **Paraphrase** in your own words, not just change a few words
 - Use **quotation marks** for direct quotes
 - Keep track of **all sources used** during research
 - Use **anti-plagiarism software** (e.g., Turnitin) to check your work
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What is Anti-Plagiarism Software?

Anti-plagiarism software is a tool that **detects and prevents plagiarism** by comparing submitted texts with: Academic papers, Books and journals, Websites,

Student submissions

Its purpose is to **ensure academic integrity** and **promote originality** in research and assignments.

2. Turnitin

Turnitin is a widely used **anti-plagiarism software** in universities worldwide. The University uses this software -

Key Features:

- **Originality Check:** Detects similarity between submitted work and existing sources
 - **Similarity Reports:** Shows matched text and highlights possible plagiarism
 - **Citation Assistance:** Suggests proper referencing to avoid plagiarism
 - **GradeMark:** Allows instructors to annotate, comment, and provide feedback directly online
 - **Integration:** Works with learning management systems like Moodle, Canvas, and Blackboard
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How Turnitin Works

1. Students submit assignments online via Turnitin.
 2. Turnitin compares the text with:
 - Internet sources
 - Published academic content
 - Previously submitted student papers
 3. Generates a **similarity report (%)** and highlights **matching text**.
 4. Instructors and students can review matches and correct citations.
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Benefits of Turnitin

- Promotes **academic honesty**
 - Helps students **improve citation skills**
 - Reduces risk of **accidental plagiarism**
 - Provides **quick feedback** for instructors
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Temptation to Plagiarism

There is great temptation to copy-paste other people's works due to:-

- Availability of easy to use word processing software e.g Microsoft word
- Access to the internet and availability to electronic information i.e google resources, e-books, and e-journals.
- Improved technology, scanners, copiers, and digital cameras.

Tips for avoiding plagiarism

- Always **cite sources properly** using APA, MLA, or your university's required style
- Paraphrase instead of copying text directly
- Use the similarity report to **revise your work before final submission**
- Check small matches in common phrases - not all matches indicate plagiarism

“Failure to acknowledge sources of information appropriately amounts to plagiarism”