

Academic Use Policies for Electronic Plagiarism Prevention Services

University of Arkansas

Last updated: August 15, 2007

Background

The University of Arkansas Graduate School has purchased a Graduate School license for a web-based plagiarism prevention service, Turnitin®, which may be used by graduate students or their instructors to compare the text of writing assignments to an extensive electronic database. An additional plagiarism prevention tool, SafeAssign®, will soon be available as an add-on module to Blackboard and WebCT web-based learning environments and will be available in courses, both graduate and undergraduate, which utilize these products.

Policies of Use

These guidelines are intended to inform faculty and students of educational and privacy standards which apply to the use of electronic plagiarism prevention services.

Student Use

Students may use electronic services to check the originality and proper use of citations in their own work. Students must be granted access to the service by their instructor for use in a specific course under the appropriate campus license.

Faculty Use

Faculty who choose to utilize an electronic plagiarism prevention service in their courses should adhere to the following policies.

- Instructors should provide written notice to all students at the beginning of the course that their work may be checked electronically for originality and proper citation of sources.
- Instructors should use their own judgment as to the selection of papers submitted to a plagiarism detection service.
- Papers written by students for course credit are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). All student work submitted to an electronic service by an instructor should use an alias for the student name and be free of any personally-identifiable information.
- Turnitin (but not SafeAssign) retains student papers for later comparison but does not release their content without permission of the person who submitted the paper. Instructors should refer any release requests from Turnitin to the student who wrote the paper and not release the paper without the student's permission.

Campus Support

Faculty may direct requests for individual login permission and other technical questions to Chris Bray , Computing Services, <cbray@uark.edu>, 5-7401. Comments and questions regarding academic use policies should be directed to Dennis Brewer, Graduate School, <dbrewer@uark.edu>, 5-5624.

Web Resources and Related Campus Policies

Turnitin and SafeAssign websites (include extensive help files and tutorials)

<http://turnitin.com/>

<http://safeassign.com/>

FERPA advice from the US Department of Education regarding student work

<http://www.nacua.org/documents/TurnitinLetter.pdf>

Student Handbook (definition of plagiarism appears on page 27 among examples of academic dishonesty)

<http://www.uark.edu/ua/uaprod/handbook/Print/StudentHandbook.pdf>

Graduate Catalog (Plagiarism is defined under the Research Misconduct Policies and Procedures on page 28 and under the Academic Honesty Policy for Graduate Students on page 35. Graduate Students are advised that theses and dissertations may be checked for plagiarism on page 34.

http://catalogofstudies.uark.edu/documents/07_Grad_Catalog.pdf

Undergraduate Catalog (Plagiarism is defined as an act of academic dishonest under Academic Honesty on page 35.)

http://catalogofstudies.uark.edu/documents/07_COS.pdf