

## Website entry for Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

**Expectations for Academic Honesty:** A college education is intended to develop your skills, knowledge, and confidence. Graded assignments are designed to work on these items. Thus, to gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence of a college-educated person all graded work is to be your own. When you are directed to work alone, an assignment or test must be done by you, its primary ideas are to be your own, and any outside materials should be dealt with properly (quoted when using someone's words, and cited when quoting or referencing them in any other way). When your teacher directs you to work in teams, the work is to be done by the team.

**The UW System makes academic honesty a condition of being a UW student**, saying that this matter is "fundamental to the mission of higher education" (see UWS 14.01: <https://uwosh.edu/deanofstudents/wp-content/uploads/sites/156/2018/12/UWS-Chapter-14.pdf>). The UW System's code on academic honesty holds students "responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors" (also UWS 14.01). The UW System's chapter 14, linked above, is the definitive source for the way we treat issues of academic honesty.

**Knowledge is Precious:** What we know about politics (and other subjects) is a result of research with careful protocols that takes years to conduct. You will get acquainted with this kind of research in many classes. Respecting how difficult it is to find and produce knowledge means that we should give credit to those who discover and elucidate what we know. Passing off others' work as your own or referring to unauthorized materials during a test short-circuits learning, is dishonest, and is not acceptable. Your own ability to function well as a college graduate depends is based on your being academically honest.

### **Please keep these items in mind as a guide:**

- plagiarism is using others' ideas or words without giving that person (or those people) credit
- material that is not common knowledge should always have a citation in a scholarly paper  
(example: cite research that describes voting behavior, but not the year World War II ended)
- when you quote someone else's words, the words that are theirs must be in quotes and be cited
- when you refer to someone's ideas or paraphrase them do not use quotes, but you must cite them
- your professors are happy to give you guidance on citations and answer questions about academic honesty, *especially while* you are engaged in a writing project
- your professors use the software program Turnitin to see if there are plagiarism issues in papers
- there are good external sources about plagiarism and writing, too. We like the plagiarism guide [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/using\\_research/avoiding\\_plagiarism/is\\_it\\_plagiarism.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/using_research/avoiding_plagiarism/is_it_plagiarism.html) and activities [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/teacher\\_and\\_tutor\\_resources/preventing\\_plagiarism/avoiding\\_plagiarism/index.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/teacher_and_tutor_resources/preventing_plagiarism/avoiding_plagiarism/index.html) created by Purdue University's Writing Lab

**Procedures:** In any case of academic dishonesty, whether it be for plagiarism, cheating on a test, or some form of dishonesty, your professors are guided by a set of rules. Your professor is required to schedule a meeting with you. At this meeting your professor will lay out the problem as she or he understands it, then ask for your response. If the professor believes academic dishonesty has occurred, she or he will next outline the recommended sanction. This can run from an oral

reprimand, all the way to expulsion (see UWS 14.04). The professor can give you an F for the course for a single case of academic dishonesty. In cases of intentional plagiarism or cheating, your professor will also write a letter to the Dean of Students about the incident. You have a right to appeal any penalty with the Dean of Students office.

**Be Diligent, but Relax:** Experience tells us that most plagiarism is inadvertent, a result of sloppiness in not including quotation marks or citations. Thus, writing a paper is partly a test of your diligence and mental acuity—are you able and willing to be careful about the assignment? These are skills that employers seek out, so practicing them on assignments is good preparation for the workforce. When incidences of plagiarism are inadvertent or few, the penalty is typically less than if someone plagiarizes a large amount of text, or does so intentionally. There is no one-size-fits-all case of academic honesty, and we try to approach each case in a manner appropriate to its individual circumstances. Students often seem afraid of plagiarizing accidentally, but if you remember the simple rules outlined above, and follow your citation manual <<link here>> all will be well, and you can concentrate on what is the most important thing by far: writing a good paper!