

Academic Use Policy – Antiplagiarism Software, Turnitin
Texas Woman’s University

Background

The University has approved the purchase of a license for a web-based antiplagiarism software service, Turnitin, which may be used by students or their instructors to compare the text of writing assignments to an extensive electronic database.

Plagiarism defined at TWU: *Plagiarism occurs when a student obtains portions or elements of someone else's work, including materials prepared by another person or agency, and presents those ideas or words as her or his own academic work. The intentional or unintentional use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement shall constitute plagiarism.*

Students are responsible for following guidelines of the appropriate course or discipline (i.e.; MLA, APA). [<http://www.twu.edu/o-sl/StudentLifeOffice/AcademicDishonesty.html>] ; Conduct guidelines : TWU Student Code of Conduct [<http://www.twu.edu/o-sl/StudentLifeOffice/StudentCodeofConduct.html>] ; Judicial process : TWU Judicial Process [<http://www.twu.edu/o-sl/StudentLifeOffice/AcademicDishonesty.html>]

Policies for Use

The primary purpose for any antiplagiarism prevention software at TWU is educational. Antiplagiarism technology *should be used as a teaching tool.*

Antiplagiarism technology is merely a tool. *The tool alone does **not** determine whether a paper has been plagiarized. Conversely, students cannot use antiplagiarism tools to prove they have not plagiarized. Instead, that judgment must be made by the individual faculty member.*

Use of antiplagiarism tools is optional, but if they are used, they must be used according to the policies and guidelines set forth in this document.

Instructors must discuss plagiarism and academic integrity with students at the beginning of each course.

If students do not consent to having their original work archived in the antiplagiarism tool databases, individual faculty members may use alternative assignments or use other, more traditional, methods for detecting plagiarism.

Because papers written for course credit are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), student work submitted to Turnitin by an instructor should use an alias for the student name, and delete any personally-identifiable information.

If faculty members suspect that a paper has been plagiarized, and the student does not acknowledge plagiarism, the procedures outlined in Chapter 4 of the Student Handbook must be followed.

*The following statement **must** appear on a course syllabus if an antiplagiarism tool is used in the course:*

In an effort to ensure the integrity of the academic process, Texas Woman's University vigorously affirms the importance of academic honesty as defined by the Student Handbook. Therefore, in an effort to detect and prevent plagiarism, faculty members at Texas Woman's University may now use a tool called Turnitin to compare a student's work with multiple sources. It then reports a percentage of similarity and provides links to those specific sources. The tool itself does not determine whether or not a paper has been plagiarized. Instead, that judgment must be made by the individual faculty member.

[Optional statements: All required assignments in this course may be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin.com or Some of the required assignments in this course or Assignments will be randomly checked...].