

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic honesty is crucial to the integrity of the program of learning in a college. Any form of falsification, misrepresentation of another's work as one's own (such as cheating on examinations, reports, or quizzes), or plagiarism from the work of others is academic dishonesty and is a serious offense.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM

The importance of learning to communicate, clearly and concisely, cannot be overemphasized; written and oral communication reflect your ability to think, analyze, and express yourself.

In an attempt to get a good grade on a paper, report, or examination students sometimes resort to plagiarism. This practice is unacceptable. It does not help you learn to communicate more effectively, and the penalties for it may be severe. It is therefore important for you to understand what constitutes plagiarism, and how to avoid it.

Plagiarism occurs when you, intentionally or unintentionally, use someone else's words, ideas, or data without proper acknowledgement. To avoid plagiarism, whenever you use exact wording of another author in your written text, you must enclose the words in quotation marks, whether it be a paragraph, a sentence, or merely a well-turned phrase. You must then acknowledge the source in a precise and complete footnote. It is not enough to footnote the source without indicating by quotation marks that the words are someone else's. It is also not enough to change one or two words in a sentence; that does not make it your own sentence. Another common error is to use another person's ideas or data without indicating the source; even if you paraphrase the ideas, you must give credit in a footnote to their originators. Furthermore, paraphrasing does not consist of merely changing a word here and there; you must actually restate the ideas in a different form. In oral presentations the original source also should be given proper credit in the form of internal source references and in bibliographic entries. While all of the above applies primarily to plagiarism from texts, scholarly articles, review, handbooks, encyclopedias, etc., it also applies to the use, either wholly or in part, of another student's paper.

Use of another student's ideas or words on an examination or report obviously constitutes plagiarism.

Plagiarism is taken seriously by the faculty. It is a form of cheating; indeed, it is a form of theft. It indicates dishonesty and a lack of personal integrity which may affect your reputation in the eyes of your professors as well as your grade. Cases of plagiarism as a first offense may be resolved between the faculty member and student in question within the penalty guidelines. In the event that faculty-student resolution is impossible, or in all cases of second offences, the case is referred to the Council on Student Affairs which is charged with enforcing College policy regarding academic honesty. In either case, a report is forwarded to the Office of the Dean of Students (see handbook of Procedures and Regulations).

Penalties for academic dishonesty are as follows: For a first offense the penalty may range from a minimum of a grade F on the assignment to a maximum of a grade of F in the course. A second offense may result in expulsion from the College.

As a student of Whitman College, I acknowledge by my signature below that I understand these principles of academic honesty and penalties for academic dishonesty. I agree to accept these as proper rules for academic behavior.

Student's Signature

Date