

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is the pursuit of scholarly activity in an open, honest and responsible manner. Academic integrity includes a commitment not to engage in or tolerate acts of assignment falsification, misrepresentation, or deception. Such acts of dishonesty violate the fundamental ethical principles of the College community and compromise the worth of work completed by others. Please refer to Section 7.5 Policy and Procedures Academic Integrity for more detail regarding the College policy and procedures regarding Academic Integrity.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of academic infringement – but sometimes learners don't know enough about it.

As a learner, you need to be aware of what plagiarism is, and how to avoid it.

If you are caught plagiarising, whether you did so knowingly or inadvertently, you will go through a somewhat unpleasant phase of meetings, disciplinary procedures and academic stress.

In serious cases, there can be an impact on your academic record, or even a rejection from the programme. Reading this section should help you avoid these pitfalls and hassle.

What is Plagiarism?

This is the definition used by universities: "Plagiarism is passing off someone else's work, whether intentionally or unintentionally, as your own for your own benefit"

Plagiarism means giving the impression that a piece of work originated with you when it didn't, or at least some of it didn't.

It's easy to do so accidentally. If you present an idea, you are automatically giving the impression that it's your work, unless you give due credit.

- If you quote directly or even indirectly by paraphrasing ideas and work that someone else has originally produced, you need to acknowledge that.
- One thing you have to realise is that you are expected to produce substantial parts of your essay through research and referencing people's ideas. It is not a bad thing at all.
- Getting away with it ...isn't going to happen, if we can help it.
- Lecturers are well read. They know most of what's been published in their fields. They get a feeling for your style and that of others, so when you style changes, they'll investigate.
- There are 'e-tools' to check whether a piece of work has been published or submitted for assessment already. Work can be checked online in moments.
- Turnitin has been integrated into the submission process for all pieces of coursework. This gives Setanta staff and learners unprecedented experience with online submission, grading and assessment feedback process.

- In many cases, it's not even necessary to use a special database to detect plagiarism; some lecturers have unearthed copying by simply typing a sentence into Google. There are lots of straightforward ways to detect plagiarism, and lecturers use them regularly.

"All assignments should have a similarity score of 20% or less (including references). For assignments higher than this score further investigation will need to be done into the origin of the similarity which will be done through the use of our plagiarism software. In serious cases the paper will be rejected and further disciplinary action will be taken."

And what happens if you get caught?

Suspected cases of plagiarism are passed to the programme leader. He/she meets the learner and tries to work out if plagiarism has taken place.

If it has, the leader decides what kind of penalty to apply.

This is likely to vary depending on factors such as:

- Whether you may have been in the dark about plagiarism,
- How much of the work in your assignment was actually plagiarised,
- Whether you have done it before,
- Whether you should know well enough by now what to avoid.

Penalties range from a written warning and rewriting the piece of work to failure and discontinuation of the whole programme.

All infringements will be kept on file and repeat offences will be considered extremely serious.

- [Link to Harvard doc.](#)

Below is our policy in relation to citation and referencing in your written assignments and module projects:

Setanta College Policy on Citation and referencing in your Assignments and Projects

- We encourage you to cite a reference in the text of your answer.
- You can call from many of the citations supplied in the lectures of Setanta College.
- You can use statements in italics from any of the lectures or reading material that you use – provided that you give the source at the end of the statement.
- You can use any other source of support that you may consider appropriate – provided that you note the source (the author or the text or the book title with the year of publication) in the body of text about this statement.
- During stage 1 (modules 1-3) incorrect citations will not have a negative impact on your grade. However, tutors will still provide feedback on referencing skills as an additional tool for you to improve in this important area.
- In stage 2 (modules 4-6) tutors will apportion a certain amount of marks for appropriate and correct citation in your answers to assignments and projects where you are requested to do so.