

## Plagiarism FAQ

Please read (and heed!) Prairie View A&M's "University Policy on Academic Honesty"

"It is the responsibility of students and faculty members to maintain academic integrity at the university by refusing to participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty. Each instance of academic dishonesty should be reported to the department in which the student has declared a major so that it can become a part of the student's file; to the department head of the instructor of the course in which the alleged infraction occurred; and to the Office for Academic Affairs as deemed necessary."

Source: Bulletin of Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas, vol. 82, no. 1 ... Issued with Announcements for the Academic Years 2003 – 2004, page 44.

### What is "Plagiarism?"

"Plagiarism" is defined as the following:

Offense: Plagiarism and Dual Submissions

1. Failing to credit sources used in a work or product in an attempt to pass off the work as one's own.
2. Attempting to receive credit for work performed by another, including papers obtained in whole or in part from individuals or other sources.
3. Attempting to receive credit in one or more classes for the same paper or project without written approval of instructors involved.

### Why is it wrong? After all, I'm still writing the paper?

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Even if you don't mean to plagiarize, it takes credit for someone else's work. If you worked hard on something and someone else took all the credit, you'd be upset.

### How can I avoid plagiarism?

- Paraphrase information taken from sources. This is more than making cosmetic changes to the sentences. Changing one or two words doesn't count.
- Quote directly from the source. Use the exact wording as well as quotation marks.
- Always cite the source, whether you are paraphrasing or quoting. If you are not familiar with proper citation form, please consult with your professor or

classmates to determine if your professor prefers the APA or MLA style (the two most common) for your class. For citation help, the PV Library home page has links to examples for both the APA style at [www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/guides/cite/apacite.html](http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/guides/cite/apacite.html) and MLA style citations at [www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/guides/cite/mlacite.html](http://www.tamu.edu/pvamu/library/guides/cite/mlacite.html).

### **When is it OK not to cite?**

- When you are stating a fact that is common knowledge. If it is something you knew without looking it up, and feel that most people reading your paper would know already, that's common knowledge.
- When you are presenting your own ideas. Remember that the point of using other sources is to support an idea that you have. There will always be parts of your work that are uniquely yours.

### **What happens if I am found plagiarizing a source?**

“... The penalty for an offense, whether first or later, will generally range from a letter of reprimand to expulsion, depending upon the severity of the offense. If an offense leads to course credit or the acquisition of a degree or certificate and it is revealed after following appropriate procedures that the offense was indeed committed, the university has the right to rescind course credit, degrees, and/or certificates awarded.”

Source: Bulletin of Prairie View A&M University, vol. 82, no. 1, p. 45 (2003-2004 ed.).

- **Bottom line: You can be expelled from Prairie View A&M University.**