

**¡JUNTOS AL EXITO!**  
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PROGRAM

The University of Texas  
Rio Grande Valley™

# Plagiarism

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# Plagiarism is ...

...the act of using someone else's work or ideas without proper credit.

ChatGPT

“... an act of fraud. It involves both stealing someone else's work and lying about it afterward.”

Merriam-Webster from plagiarism.org

# Examples of Plagiarism

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not



# Also...

- buying research papers from online paper mills
- borrowing an assignment from a friend who previously took the class
- paying someone to write an assignment for you
- two or more students working together to produce independent assignments

# What do I tell my students?

Three things to watch for in your writing:

- someone else's exact words - quotes
- someone else's ideas - even when paraphrasing
- uncommon knowledge

# Plagiarism Detection Tools



# What to do if a student is caught plagiarizing?

## Follow Academic Integrity Violation Sanctioning Guidelines

- Four categories
- from in-class management
- to suspension

UTRio Grande Valley <b>ACADEMIC INTEGRITY VIOLATION SANCTIONING GUIDELINES</b>	
Academic Integrity Violation	Sanctions
Academic integrity violations are categorized into four levels, provided here with a list of behaviors and examples.	The list of sanctions here are likely in the average situation; however our trained staff does exercise professional judgment and consider context when ultimately deciding on the most appropriate sanctions.
Category One Violations	Sanctions
Policy violations are characterized as Level One when it is reasonable to conclude that the student's behavior was a result of inexperience with academic integrity principles and policies (e.g. a first quarter student) and when the violation was minor or occurred on an assignment that was worth a small portion of the student's course grade. For example, but not only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scholarly negligence – an incorrectly executed citation in an otherwise properly cited paper</li><li>• Copying one answer on a small homework assignment</li><li>• Engaging in collaboration on an assignment even when the rules weren't clear</li></ul>	Students are likely to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Receive an official warning</li><li>• Be required to complete an educational online workshop</li><li>• Write a reflection paper</li><li>• Reduction of grade for assignment by one letter grade</li><li>• Be mandated to attend an Academic Integrity Seminar or some other educational workshop</li></ul>
Category Two Violations	Sanctions
Policy violations are characterized as Level Two when the actions are dishonest in character and/or impact a more significant amount of the assignment or course grade. For example, but not only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Copying homework, assignment or labs from others</li><li>• Collaborating with others on an independent assignment when guidelines explicitly forbid it</li><li>• Submitting a portion of the same material in more than one course without prior authorization</li><li>• Possession of unauthorized materials for assignments</li><li>• Providing another student with one's own assignment, paper, exam or quiz</li><li>• Signing in another student for class attendance/ participation marks</li><li>• Making lab data available to a student who did not attend the lab</li><li>• Plagiarism- limited copyright and pasting from secondary sources without citation</li><li>• Possession or provision of unauthorized aids (e.g., cheat sheets, cell phone, class notes) when it cannot be determined if used</li><li>• "Panic" copying of one answer from another student during an exam or quiz</li><li>• Allowing another student to copy (limited) during exam</li></ul>	Students are likely to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be placed on disciplinary probation</li><li>• Be mandated to attend an Academic Integrity Seminar or some other educational workshop</li><li>• Write a reflection paper</li><li>• Reduction of grade for assignment/course</li><li>• Other sanction as deemed appropriate under the circumstances</li></ul>

# What's the procedure?

If reporting the offense:

- use the Academic Dishonesty REPORT IT FORM
- One of two options:
  - Completion of faculty disposition
  - Direct referral for resolution
- Details found in HOP



# More Resources from the Office of Student Life and Dean of Students

[Academic Dishonesty](#)

[Avoiding Academic Dishonesty](#)