

PLAGIARISM

The following definitions and resources have been taken from the University of Miami School of Medicine Office of Research Education and Training website

(<http://researchedu.med.miami.edu/x18.xml>).

Scientific Misconduct includes Fabrication, Falsification, and Plagiarism. A formal definition of Scientific Misconduct from the DHHS is still pending, however there is general consensus of the elements.

Plagiarism is the intentional use of someone else's words (e.g., direct quotes), thoughts (e.g., paraphrased quotes), ideas (e.g., charts, data), or internet materials in your own writings/presentations as if you had come up with them on your own. Plagiarism is the theft of intellectual property and is not unlike stealing from a commercial business.

Another issue to consider in this context is what some term "*self plagiarism*," in which an author uses substantial segments of his/her own published material in a new publication without reference. Another example is when students present the same paper they have written for the two different course assignments.

Although the University of Miami has established strict policies against plagiarism by students there are currently no web-based courses on plagiarism available.

The Department of Psychology will assess all theses, dissertations and qualifying papers for potential plagiarism (see Plagiarism Definitions, p. 37) using commercially available software, such as the "Safe Assignment" program provided by the Office of Instructional Advancement. All students are required to submit an electronic version of their thesis, dissertation, and/or qualifying paper to Pat Perreira at least two weeks prior to submission of the document to the Graduate School for this purpose. Students are encouraged to run their documents through the "Safe Assignment" program before they submit the document to scan for potential problems. **As noted in the Graduate Student Handbook section on "Retention and Termination", evidence of plagiarism is grounds for dismissal from the program.**

Resources related to plagiarism and scientific misconduct:

University of Miami Resources

University of Miami Undergraduate Honor Code

"What Constitutes Plagiarism" by Christopher F. Colby, President, University of Miami, Undergraduate Honor Council

Composition Symposium 2002 "Punishing Forgery, Preventing Plagiarism, and Teaching to Motivate" with Rebecca Moore Howard

Web Based Resources available

United States DHHS, Office of Research Integrity (ORI)

1993 Conference on Plagiarism and Theft of Ideas

ORI Provides Working Definition of Plagiarism

Other Resources on the Web

Comprehensive Plagiarism site at the University of Illinois

“Case Study of Plagiarism” by Terry Ann Krulwich, Dean of Graduate School, Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, New York, NY from the ONLINE ETHICS CENTER

“Plagiarism” by Earl Babbie, Professor Sociology Department, Chapman University

“What is Plagiarism?” The History News Network staff has posted three different definitions of plagiarism provided by the American Historical Association, Modern Language Association and the American Psychological Association

“On Being a Scientist: Responsible Conduct in Research” from the National Academy of Science

“Keeping Kids Honest in the Information Age: Dealing with Cyber-Plagiarism” by Lorraine Sherry, a Senior Research Associate at RMC Research Corporation (Denver, CO) put together this article as part of her work with the STAR Center (Support for Texas Academic Renewal). Sherry discusses some reasons why students use the internet to “cut and paste” information to complete assignments. She also presents data about term paper providers and other sites that “encourage” plagiarism. Tips on how to teach about plagiarism, detection strategies, and methods to help prevent plagiarism are also covered.

Rebecca Moore Howard--Articles, Rebecca Moore Howard, Associate Professor of writing and rhetoric, and Writing Program Director at Syracuse University is one of the most well-known researchers in the area of composition and plagiarism. This site provides access to a number of Howard’s articles on the topic of plagiarism. Howard presents a seminar at the University of Miami in September 2002. A video of Howard’s talk is available from the Office of Research Education, 305-243-7970.