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**Turnitin™ Course Director Information & Collegiate Guidelines**

## What is Turnitin?

Plagiarism Detection is the process of checking papers against external sources and identifying sections of papers that may have been plagiarized.  The University of Iowa has licensed Turnitin (http://turnitin.com), an online, **automatic plagiarism detection** service for campus-wide use, and we encourage all instructors to utilize this tool.

Students submit their papers via ICON (Canvas) and the instructor receives an **originality report** showing possible matches between the submitted paper and Turnitin's database and internet resources. It is important to note that the final decision about the presence of a plagiarism lies with the instructor.

## Collegiate Guidelines for Using Turnitin

Use of Turnitin is up to the discretion of each course direction.  If you choose to use it, please make sure the following occurs:

1. Notify students before they submit an assignment that you will use Turnitin.  We highly recommend that you notify students **via the course syllabus** if you plan to use Turnitin for some or all written assignments.  Below is a **sample statement** to put in your syllabus:

   *All required writing assignments may be submitted to a plagiarism-detection tool such as Turnitin.com. Turnitin is a software resource intended to address plagiarism and improper citation. The software works by cross-referencing submitted materials with an archived database of journals, essay, newspaper articles, books, and other published work. In addition, other methods may be used to determine the originality of the paper. This software is not intended to replace or substitute for the faculty member's judgement regarding detection of plagiarism.*

2. Turnitin should be used for all students in your course, not only for work that you may have some suspicion. To reiterate, if you would like to use Turnitin for one student for a particular assignment, you must run every student's work for that assignment through the service.

3. There are two ways to use Turnitin's Plagiarism Detection service. **Note:  When possible, students should submit their work rather than the instructor.**  By doing so, students implicitly give their permission. Submit through:

   a. *ICON (Canvas)*. This option is **highly recommended by the College and University.**
   b. *Turnitin website*. This option is **not recommended by the College or the University**.

## Instructions to Get Started:  https://teach.uiowa.edu/turnitin-getting-started

# Interpreting the Turnitin Report

Please read the following carefully to better understand what an originality or similarity score means.
https://guides.turnitin.com/01_Manuals_and_Guides/Instructor_Guides/Feedback_Studio/19_The_Similarity_Report/Interpreting_the_Similarity_Report