

3. Plagiarism :

3.1. What is Plagiarism ?

A key aim of university education is for students to acquire expertise and knowledge in their chosen field. To do this, students are expected to read research literature and present their own ideas and the ideas of others in their field following formal academic conventions.

In academic writing, for example, students are expected not only to present original work and to demonstrate wide reading but also to appropriately reference and incorporate the views of experts in the field of study into their essays.

plagiarism means presenting another person's work as one's own work by presenting, copying or reproducing it without appropriate acknowledgement of the source.

In short, plagiarism is a form of intellectual dishonesty or theft.

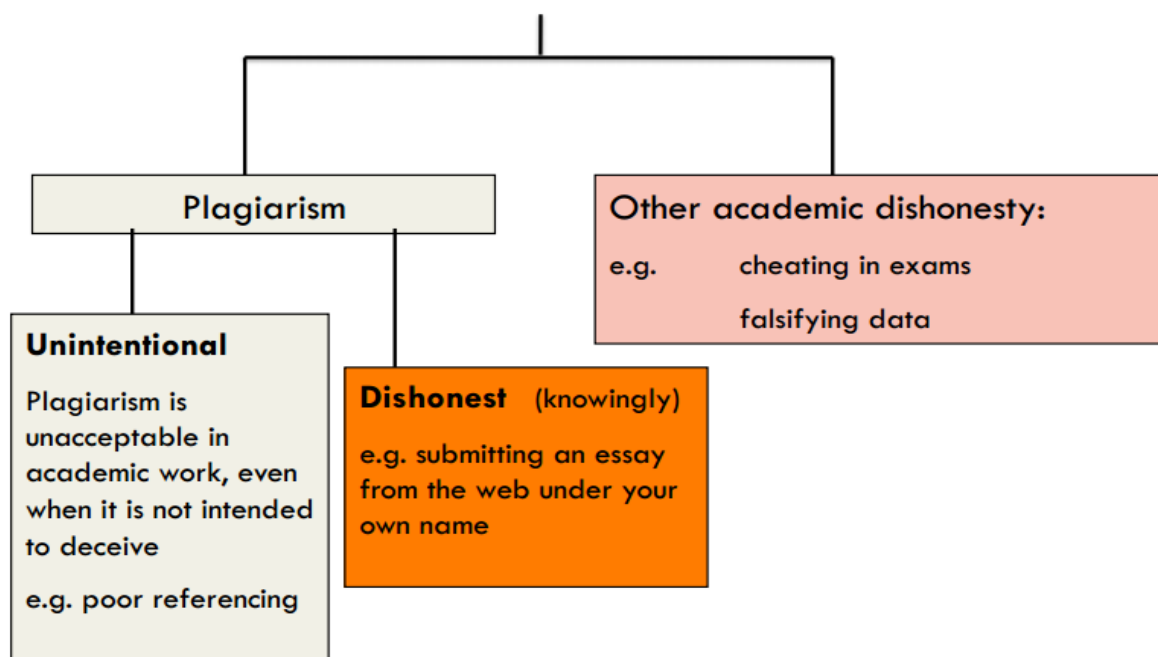
Although the definition of plagiarism may seem simple, the subject can be quite confusing for students as plagiarism comes in various forms.

Some examples of plagiarism listed on the University's *Academic Honesty and Plagiarism* webpage include:

- Copying (or allowing to be copied) text, ideas, concepts, research results, statistical tables, computer programs, designs, images or sounds, or any combination of these
- Paraphrasing another person's work with minor changes, but keeping the meaning, form and/or progression of ideas of the original
- Piecing together sections of the work of others into a new whole
- Submitting part or all of an assignment twice for separate subjects or marks
- Presenting an assignment as independent work when it has been produced in whole or part in collusion with other people, for example another student or a tutor (The University of Melbourne, 2005).

3.2. Types of academic dishonesty :

Types of academic dishonesty



Examples:

Original text:

The Internet has changed the appearance of libraries and how librarians work today. The library is no longer confined to the four walls of a building. It has, instead, extended into cyberspace. Many librarians have gone into cyberspace to locate online resources (p.294).

Yong, Janet Y. 2001 'Malay/Indonesian speakers' In M. Swan and B. Smith (eds), *Learner English: A teacher's guide to interference and other problems*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 279-295.

Version 1:

Today, the Internet has changed the appearance of libraries and how librarians work and the library is no longer confined to the four walls of a building. Instead, the library has extended into cyberspace and so many librarians go into cyberspace to locate online resources.

Comments: This version is a clear example of plagiarised work. Much of it has been copied directly from the original without acknowledgement.

Version 2:

Today, the Internet has changed the appearance of libraries and how librarians work and the library is no longer confined to the four walls of a building. Instead, the library has extended into cyberspace and so many librarians go into cyberspace to locate online resources (Yong, 2001: 294).

Comments: This is still plagiarised work. Although this version has acknowledged the source of the information by providing an in-text reference, the writer has not put quotation marks around the words copied directly from the original text (direct quotations).

Version 3:

The library is no longer confined to the four walls of a building. It has, instead, extended into cyberspace and many librarians have gone into cyberspace to locate online resources. The Internet has thus changed the appearance of libraries and how librarians work today (Yong, 2001: 294).

Comments: This paragraph also constitutes a plagiarised piece of work as the sentences have merely been rearranged and most of the original wording has been copied without acknowledgement. Rearranging is not paraphrasing – paraphrasing requires the writer to reformulate the ideas in the original text in his/her own words.

3.3. Consequences of plagiarism :

CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism can have very serious consequences for you in your future studies. If found guilty of plagiarism, you may be...

- required to complete additional assessment in the subject
- given a mark of zero for the piece of assessment
- given a fail grade for the subject
- referred to a committee investigating under Statute 13.1 for Academic Misconduct which may result in termination of enrolment and expulsion from the University. In other words, in serious cases you may even be asked to leave the university!

**Plagiarism can be intentional or unintentional.
Ignorance or carelessness is no excuse.**

3.4. Strategies for avoiding plagiarism :

➡ Strategy 1:

Remember that while you are at university you are expected to develop your own ideas and opinions about different issues, which you can then reinforce and support with the research of other scholars.

You can gain the confidence to do this by:

- asking and answering questions to help you clarify your ideas.
- recognising where and why you might agree or disagree with someone else's opinions.
- learning how to develop hypotheses around issues.
- putting forward suggestions and conclusions of your own to support your ideas.

➡ Strategy 2:

Know about the different ways in which you can correctly and appropriately use other writers' or researchers' voices in your assignments.

There are four main ways:

- by **paraphrasing** their information and providing a reference,
- by **summarising** or synthesizing their information and providing a reference,
- by **quoting** directly their words and providing a reference,
- by **copying** their tables, graphs, diagrams and so on and providing a reference.

➡ Strategy 3:

Learn how to reference your assignments correctly.

In order to reference correctly you need to understand the rules clearly. The various styles of referencing in use are Author-Date styles and Numbering styles. It's very important that you take the time to learn their rules, especially as different courses may require different referencing styles within either of these systems (for example, APA (American Psychological Association), Harvard, CIBA, Endnote, MLA (Modern