

## **Drake University Statement on Plagiarism**

This statement is based on a "Statement on Plagiarism" published by the American Association of University Professors' Committee B on Professional Ethics, adopted by the Council in June 1990 and endorsed by the Seventy-Sixth Annual Meeting.

The right of faculty members to inquire, to teach, to speak, and to publish professionally, in the words of the A.A.U.P. 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure, "depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition". See Academic Charter.

In its Statement on Professional Ethics, the Association stresses the obligation of faculty to their subject and to the truth as they see it, as well as the need "to exercise critical self-discipline and judgment in using, extending, and transmitting knowledge". While defending free inquiry and respecting the opinion of others in the exchange of criticism and ideas, faculty must also be rigorously honest in acknowledging their academic debts.

The offense of plagiarism is taking the ideas, methods, or written words of another, without acknowledgment and with the intention that they be taken as the work of the deceiver. It is theft of a special kind because, although the true author still retains the original ideas and words, they are diminished as that author's property and a fraud is committed upon the audience that believes those ideas and words originated with the deceiver. Plagiarism has perhaps its most pernicious effect in the academic setting where it is the antithesis of the honest labor that characterizes true scholarship and without which mutual trust and respect among scholars is impossible.

Within the academic world where advancing knowledge remains the highest calling, scholars must give full and fair recognition to the contributors to that enterprise, both for the substance and for the formulation of their findings and interpretations.

Every faculty member should be guided by the following precepts:

1. In his or her own work, an author must scrupulously acknowledge every intellectual debt for ideas, methods, and expressions, by means appropriate to the form of communication. Authors must make clear the respective contributions of colleagues on a collaborative project.
2. Faculty, who have the guidance of students as their responsibility, must exercise the greatest care not to appropriate a student's ideas, research, or presentation for personal benefit; to do so is to abuse power and trust.
3. In working with graduate students, faculty must demonstrate by precept and example the necessity of rigorous honesty in the use of sources and of utter respect for the work of others. The same expectations apply to the guidance of undergraduate students, with a special obligation to acquaint students new to the world of higher education with its standards and the means of ensuring intellectual honesty.

Any intellectual enterprise by an individual, a group of collaborators, or a profession, is a mosaic, the pieces of which are put in place by many hands. Viewed from a distance, it should appear as a meaningful whole, but the long process of its assemblage must not be discounted or misrepresented. Anyone who is guilty of plagiarism not only harms those most directly affected but also diminishes the authority and credibility of all scholarship and all creative arts, and

therefore ultimately harms the interests of the broader society. The danger of plagiarism for teaching, learning, and scholarship is manifest, and the need to vigorously maintain standards of professional integrity is compelling. (Passed March 1996)

Drake University Faculty Manual; Section 5.24