



## Plagiarism and Academic Malpractice Policy

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## Contents

1.	Introduction .....	2
2.	Responsibilities of Hugh Baird University Centre .....	2
3.	Fabrication of Results .....	3
4.	Penalties that can be imposed .....	3
5.	Repeat Offences .....	7
6.	Plagiarism Detection .....	7
7.	The Right to Appeal .....	7
	7.1 Reference Documents .....	7

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document sets out the procedures for handling cases of plagiarism and academic malpractice. The purpose of this document is to set out procedures that staff should follow if they suspect academic malpractice. This document also enables students who are facing allegations of malpractice to understand the process and how Hugh Baird College will deal with their case. Each partner university issues guidelines on the use of in text citations and referencing which students will be required to adhere to.
- 1.2 All case of plagiarism will be subject to Hugh Baird College's student disciplinary guidelines.
- 1.3 Definition of Academic Malpractice; this is any activity deemed intentional or unintentional. The scope of this includes plagiarism, collusion, fabrication of results and anything that would result in marks being awarded to the student. It is important to note that academic malpractice is the result of a student's intention to deliberately cheat or may be committed unintentionally. However whether intended or not any incident will be taken very seriously by the College
- 1.4 *Plagiarism* is defined as presenting the ideas, work, words or data without clear acknowledgement to the originator of the work. This encompasses direct copying of another person's work, this also includes another student. There is also self-plagiarism, this would be submitting work that has been used in a previous assignment.
- 1.5 The term "work" also applies to audio, visual mediums such as paintings, designs, photography, computer code, diagram, graph or illustration.
- 1.6 *Collusion* is when unauthorised collaboration exists with another student or students in order to obtain a mark that they are not entitled to. Students who allow another student to copy their work are also committing collusion. Students may not lend their work which has been submitted for assessment to another student. Students should treat their academic work as their own property. It is a student's responsibility to protect their own work
- 1.7 *Fabrication or the falsification* of results and/or data. This is the inclusion in student work of data, either qualitative or quantitative that has been made up or altered in some way which has no viable source.
- 1.8 *Dishonest Practice* is when students offer a bribe or inducement to any academic staff who are involved in the assessment process. They also make false declarations relating to their Mitigating Circumstances.

## 2. Responsibilities of Hugh Baird College

- 2.1 It is the responsibility of the College to ensure that all students either full or part-time have the opportunity to fully understand the implications of academic malpractice. This must be included in all student course handbooks and be accessible to the College VLE. It must be made clear that any case of academic malpractice is not acceptable in any circumstance. Where a case of malpractice has occurred student must be fully aware of the penalties that will be enforced.
- 2.2 Cases will be referred to Hugh Baird College Plagiarism Committee. Panel members will consist of the students, Personal Tutor, a Subject Specialist and Head of Learning Resources (Chair).
- 2.3 No circumstances can justify academic malpractice. A penalty must always be applied to the student. If students do present mitigating circumstances as evidence, this may be taken into consideration when applying the penalty.

### 3. Fabrication of Results

- 3.1 In some cases students will be required to carry out practical work as part of their course. This includes both qualitative and quantitative research methods, such as surveys, questionnaires, and case studies. Under no circumstances must you seek to present results that have been fabricated and not properly obtained. In the case that it is discovered that results have been fabricated or falsified then you will be guilty of academic malpractice.

### 4. Penalties that can be imposed

- 4.1 The penalties for plagiarism and or collusion operate on the basis that each programme area have a responsibility to ensure that all students have a clear understanding of what constitutes plagiarism and collusion. In addition to this students are provided with advice and guidance on how to avoid plagiarism and collusion. Explicit guidance should be provided during the first few weeks of students commencing their studies. Advice and guidance is available from Hugh Baird College Library. Each case is different and the panel will use their judgement in awarding penalties.

#### 4.2 Guide to determination of the penalties awarded to the student when using Turnitin UK.

The guidance given below is indicative only, based on Turnitin UK originality scores. When using Turnitin UK the originality scores should only be determined following exclusion of referenced material.

The evaluation of individual cases is the responsibility of person who is marking the module, who is well-placed to determine the severity of the offence in the context of the academic discipline and the nature of the assignment. In particular, the judgement requires consideration of the spread of the percentage scores across the identified sources and the extent to which the identified elements represent continuous text.

Severity of Plagiarism	Characteristics	Penalties to be imposed
<p><b>Poor academic practice</b></p> <p>First offences occurring in the first semester of the student's course should normally be treated as poor academic practice</p>	<p><b><u>This is not a disciplinary offence</u></b></p> <p>This involves collaboration or poor referencing but where there is evidence that the student did not appreciate the rules of academic writing or where the extent can be considered so slight as to not warrant disciplinary proceedings against the student.</p> <p>The work would create a very low similarity index on Turnitin UK, and it would normally concern issues including</p>	<p>A formal warning is issued by the Tutor and the student directed to academic support within the department.</p> <p>The student is required to undertake the Library Referencing Plagiarism workshop.</p> <p>In cases of poor academic practice the mark will reflect the academic merit of the work; the mark is likely to be low.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• copied material from sources which are cited but not in quotation marks;</li> <li>• limited amount of material which is in the bibliography but without proper referencing;</li> </ul> <p>some collaboration between students evidenced in structure and sources, but original writing throughout</p>	<p>However the module tutor may request a re-submission of the work.</p>
<p><b>Case 1</b> Plagiarism and/or collusion  <b>A Large amount of the students work involve plagiarism or collusion</b></p>	<p>It is clear that the breach of the rules of collaboration and citation is caused by presentation of the material of others as the student's original material.</p> <p>This offence will be committed when the copied material represents a large proportion of the work</p> <p>These are the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration between students to produce work together with very high similarity.</li> </ul> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ similar structures</li> <li>○ numerous identical blocks of text with only minor changes</li> <li>○ similar references</li> <li>• Blocks of text in the submitted assignment taken from other sources, unaccredited and without citation. This can include material listed in the bibliography if the block of text is sufficiently large (several continuing lines);</li> </ul> <p>Significant amounts of material which is not cited or listed in the bibliography and which has been represented, subject to minor</p>	<p>The student will be given 0% for the module and an overall fail. The work must be re-submitted and will be scrutinised for plagiarism. The student will only achieve a maximum mark of 40%.</p>

	changes, as the student's own work.	
<p><b>Case 2</b> plagiarism and/or collusion</p> <p><b>This offence has been committed when the copied material represents a large proportion of the work submitted</b></p>	<p>It is clear that the breach of the rules of collaboration and citation is caused by presentation of the material of others as the student's original material</p> <p>These are the following guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• collaboration between students to produce work together with very high similarity indexes,(as shown by Turnitin UK) This includes:-</li> <li>• Similar structures, numerous identical blocks of text with only minor linguistic changes, similar referencing</li> <li>• The line between Case 1 and Case 2 offences will be determined by the degree of originality in the two or more pieces of work where collaboration is evident</li> <li>• Blocks of text in the submitted assignment taken from other sources, unaccredited and without citation. This can include material listed in the bibliography if the block of text is sufficiently large significant amounts of material which is not cited or listed in the bibliography and which has been represented, subject to minor changes, as the student's own work.</li> </ul>	<p>A mark of 0% will be awarded for the assignment; the module outcome is calculated on the basis of the zero mark for the component.</p> <p>If this results in failure of the module, the student should be required to resubmit the component for the purpose of credit but without any marks being awarded</p> <p>Students are normally allowed one referral opportunity for each component. The maximum mark achievable from referrals is 40% or the minimum pass mark for the module</p> <p>A referral will only be offered by if the student has not exhausted the referral opportunity for the module</p>
<p><b>Case 3</b> plagiarism and/or collusion</p> <p><b>This is a <u>repeat offence</u> has been committed when the copied material represents a large proportion of the work submitted</b></p>	<p>A repeat offence is defined as a piece of work identified as having been plagiarised and which has been submitted following prior imposition of a penalty for plagiarism.</p>	<p>A mark of zero (0) should be awarded for the assignment; the module outcome is calculated on the basis of the zero mark for the component.</p> <p>If this results in failure of the module, the student should be required to resubmit the component for the purpose of</p>

		<p>credit but without any marks being awarded</p> <p>If application of a penalty of zero for the component does not result in failure of the module, the module mark obtained for the module should be further reduced by 10% of the maximum available mark</p> <p>Students are normally allowed one referral opportunity for each component. The maximum mark achievable from referrals is 40% or the minimum pass mark for the module</p> <p>A referral will only be offered by if the student has not exhausted the referral opportunity for the module</p>
<p><b>Case 4</b> plagiarism and/or collusion</p> <p><b>Instances of the most severe plagiarism</b></p>	<p>Where the departmental processes do not provide a sufficient penalty.</p> <p>Examples include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purchasing of an entire piece of work or soliciting to do so or multiple repeat offences.</li> <li>• It may also be appropriate to refer to a disciplinary panel a case which is complex and where the department is unable to establish the facts, for example a case of apparent collusion where the identification of the guilty party cannot be ascertained.</li> <li>• A disciplinary panel has the power to impose penalties up to and including expulsion from the course. For Higher Education students this would be in conjunction with the partner University plagiarism and malpractice policy.</li> </ul>	<p>Refer to Plagiarism Committee</p> <p>Recommendation for expulsion with an alternative exit award as appropriate</p> <p>Recommendation for expulsion with any alternative exit award withheld</p> <p>In the case of Higher Education students, in order to assess the impact of the penalty the Committee must consult with the partner Universities policies on academic malpractice and plagiarism.</p>

## 5 Repeat offences

5.1 A repeat offence is one that has occurred in the students' current programme of study. Instances of plagiarism that took place at Foundation Degree level will constitute as a previous offence in a BA (Top up) Degree.

5.2 In Education and Social work programmes acts of malpractice may be viewed as whether they are fit to practice in their chosen profession. It is then up to the panel to consult the partner university regarding further action that may be required.

## 6 Plagiarism Detection

6.1 The University Centre, UCLAN only uses plagiarism detection software called Turnitin UK. This is used to assist staff in identifying potential plagiarism in students' work that has been submitted electronically.

6.2 Students whose Partner University is the University of Central Lancashire are required to submit their work via Turnitin UK. This is plagiarism detection software.

6.3 If tutors consider work to be plagiarised they are required to provide evidence to support their claims.

6.4 **For further advice and guidance, please contact Head of Learning Resources on extension 4455.**

## 7 The Right to Appeal

7.1 The student has the right to appeal the decision at any point in the process. Mitigation may lessen the penalties but does not excuse the offence. It would be expected that the student would have submitted the correct paper work with their tutor for mitigating circumstances. To appeal the student would appeal through the Hugh Baird College Academic Appeals process.

### 7.2 Grounds for Appeal

- There has been an error
- The assessment was not conducted in accordance with the awarding body or university regulations
- There is evidence that an irregularity has occurred.

The college reserves the right to deem the appeal not eligible where there is no evidence to support the claim.

### 7.3 Reference Documents

- HE Assessment Policy
- Student Disciplinary Policy
- HE Academic Appeals
- Assessment Procedures and Policies: EDEXCEL BTEC

- Assessment Policies & Procedures: Further Education



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