

Academic Misconduct

And how to avoid it

By Sarah Havard

Academic Misconduct



‘Even if you change a few words or sentences you have ‘borrowed’, or if you reordered them, the result is still plagiarism’
Cottrell (2013, p. 177).

‘The terms academic dishonesty and academic misconduct are often used interchangeably in reference to a range of unethical behaviours in which some students engage while completing their academic work.’
Hughes and McCabe (2006)



<https://savannahstate.libguides.com/c.php?g=353846&p=2387197>

‘Not only is plagiarism unethical, but it is of no educational value to us.’
Greetham (2019, p. 313).

The dreaded “P” word. Most people are familiar with the term plagiarism from their school days, but do you really know what it means to plagiarize?
Blogging Basics: How to Avoid Plagiarism (Stoller, No d



Plagiarism

‘Plagiarism is the use of the work of others without acknowledgement of your source of information or inspiration’
(Cottrell, 2013, Pg 177).

What is Plagiarism?

Plagiarism is Using the words of others without giving them the correct credit. For example using text from a book and not citing or referencing correctly.

How to avoid Plagiarism?

Ensure you cite and reference any text you use from others correctly using the correct referencing system e.g. The Harvard referencing.



Collusion

According to the UWTSD academic misconduct policy (2023/24, P. 2) collusion is seen as working with someone else on an assessment which is intended to be the students own work.

What is collusion?

Collusion is when more than one person works on an assignment that is meant to be done independently.

How to avoid collusion?

Do not share your work with others, It is acceptable to work alongside other students and share ideas, however It is not seen as acceptable to share your work.



Self-Plagiarism

‘Self-Plagiarism is commonly described as recycling or reusing one's own specific words from previously published texts’ (AJE, 2016).

What is self-plagiarism?

This is when you submit a piece of your work for 2 different modules.

How to avoid self-Plagiarism?

To avoid this you need to ensure you manage your time effectively and give yourself enough time to complete assignments.



Breaching ethics

‘Breaching ethical standards is failing to comply with your ethical obligations when carrying out your academic work as set out in the University Ethics Policy’ University of Southampton, (2023)

What is breaching ethics?

Breaching ethics is when you do not follow the rules of conduct set by your university or place of education.

How to avoid breaching ethics?

You can simply research your universities rules and regulations and follow the code of conduct set on their website.



Contract cheating

‘Contract cheating is when others complete an assessment for you. It is often in exchange for some form of payment but does not always include the exchange of money, goods or services.’
University of Bristol
(2023)

What is contract cheating?

This is when a student or a group of students pay another person to complete their work or assignments.

How to avoid contract cheating?

Yet again effective time management comes into action. Students may feel inclined to use this when they are overwhelmed by their workload or perhaps lack knowledge in the subject.



What will happen if I am
accused of academic
misconduct?

There are a range of consequences for
academic misconduct.

It can range from a verbal warning to
expulsion from your course in extreme cases. 

If you are accused of academic misconduct you will be provided with a case worker to handle the case.

‘The case worker appointed for the case will be checked to ensure they are impartial and not implicated’ UWTSD (2023/2024, P.8).

Once the facts of the case are identified, the case will be brought to a panel, who will decide on the correct penalty.





