

The University takes plagiarism very seriously. An investigation into an allegation of plagiarism can be stressful and penalties can be severe. Students are expected to follow the principles of academic honesty and be familiar with academic writing expectations. Lack of knowledge is a poor defense against an allegation. SUPRA urges postgraduates to read and use the advice below.

Definition of Plagiarism

The University's *Plagiarism: Student Coursework – Policies and Procedures* Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting another person’s Work as one’s own Work by presenting, copying or reproducing it without acknowledgement of the source”.

In SUPRA's experience, many failures to acknowledge sources result from innocent, reckless or careless errors. Plagiarism Policy calls these cases of ‘negligent’ plagiarism. Knowingly presenting another person’s work as ones own without acknowledgement of the source is called ‘dishonest’ plagiarism.

Support

If you are accused of plagiarism or academic dishonesty, we strongly advise you to contact a SUPRA Student Advice and Advocacy Officer (SAAO) to help ensure your rights are upheld.

The Investigation

If an examiner suspects plagiarism they make a preliminary assessment with a Nominated Academic of whether it would be negligent or dishonest. Factors considered include the extent of alleged plagiarism, value of the work, overall academic performance, and circumstances of the occurrence.

In alleged negligent plagiarism cases the Nominated Academic will discuss the allegation with you, and where they find you guilty they will counsel, issue a written warning, and may apply a penalty from needing to resubmit work to work a fail grade for the work.

In alleged dishonest plagiarism cases the allegation can be referred for a potential Student Misconduct investigation after considering whether there was a previous written warning, the capacity to affect peers and/or teachers, and impact on academic standards. Proven cases of Student Misconduct have penalties up to expulsion from the University.

If not referred for a misconduct investigation, dishonest plagiarism allegations will be discussed with you by the Nominated Academic, and if proven, they will counsel, issue a written warning, and may apply a penalty ranging from resubmitting work to failing the unit of study.

Rights

The principles of procedural fairness apply, including the right to:

- be informed of allegations in sufficient detail to respond;
- have reasonable time to respond; timely resolution;
- be informed of policies and procedures;
- a support person or student representative to meetings;
- impartiality in any investigation; and
- absence of bias in any decision-maker.

Appeals

Decisions under Plagiarism Policy are academic judgments appealable following the process described in SUPRA's Academic Appeals Fact Sheet and Survival Manual.

Other Types of Academic Dishonesty

Resolution of the Academic Board on Academic Honesty in Coursework include a list of other behaviors that can lead to penalties, including fabrication of data, recycling, engaging another to complete an assessment for you, and a range of examination offences.