



Turnitin® Guide for Students and Faculty

What is Turnitin©?

Turnitin© is an originality checker used by some courses and programs in the School of Nursing at OHSU. Turnitin© is one of many forms of feedback that can enable writers to develop skills in source integration and citation, as well as help writers avoid plagiarism (plagiarism defined in the School of Nursing Catalog). When you submit work to Turnitin©, it is compared against web pages and student essays, as well as printed material like newspapers, magazines, and books. When Turnitin(c)© finds similarities, it generates an originality report. This does not necessarily equate to plagiarism, but can be caused by shared sources or forgotten citations.

How Turnitin© is Used in SAKAI

The course syllabus includes the following statement regarding the possible use of Turnitin(c) in your course.

Some courses in the School of Nursing use an academic authenticity tool called Turnitin©. Turnitin© is a plagiarism-checking system that may be used for some of your assignments in this course to either help you practice proper citation use and/or to check for plagiarism. Complete instructions will be provided in the course site.

You will be informed about the use of Turnitin© at the beginning of the term. While the use of Turnitin(c) can seem like a policing tool, Turnitin© is more of a drafting tool. Students are encouraged to submit early and often, not just to make sure their citations are correct, but also to ensure that they are responsibly representing current academic discourse.

The Submission Process

The Turnitin© submission process happens in the background when you submit your assignment to SAKAI. The use of Turnitin© DOES NOT require that you log into the Turnitin© website or create a Turnitin© account. Simply submit your assignment as you normally would. Turnitin© is an additional feature that is integrated into Sakai and configured by your course designer or instructor.

Faculty may set up a separate Turnitin© submission area in sakai for you to submit your paper draft without attachments. Once Turnitin© has returned your Similarity report (see below), based on instructions from your faculty, you may be able to revise your paper and submit it to the final submission area. If the option to submit your paper is provided prior to the final submission, it is important to plan your time to submit your paper to Turnitin© and have time to revise it as needed prior to the final submission deadline.



Digital Receipt

If a submission item has been configured to use Turnitin®, you will receive a digital receipt. This receipt is an automated response to your **successful** submission and will be e-mailed to your OHSU account, as well as appearing on screen after you submit. Please hold on to your digital receipt. Like getting a receipt for a purchase, this is your evidence of a successful submission to Turnitin®.

If you did not receive a digital receipt but know that you successfully submitted your assignment, then check your e-mail, including your junk, bulk or deleted folders (it is sometimes filtered as spam) for the digital receipt mail.

If you do not see a digital receipt, then your submission was **not** likely received by Turnitin®. Many students make the mistake of uploading the paper and thinking it's done. There is a second step, which is to confirm submission. If the second step isn't confirmed, the paper will not be submitted, and there will be no digital receipt.

Similarity Report – Processing Time

If your instructor has enabled this option to view your Similarity report, then the Similarity Report for your submitted file is usually created within 5 to 10 minutes of submission. That is for an average paper of 500 to 1000 words. Longer papers will take a little more time.

Similarity Reports for resubmitted assignments take 24-hours to regenerate. During this time, you will not have access to the Similarity Report or the similarity index (percentage). If your instructor has not allowed students to view the Similarity Report, please contact your instructor.

Interpreting Similarity Reports

Reports provide a summary of the matching text found in a submitted paper. The percentage indicates the overall similarity index of the paper, based on how much matching text was found. If an assignment uses a template, there may be an inflated high score in the similarity report because of the repetition of the assignment directions.

The highlighted text in your document is color coded and numbered to match the sources on the right. Research papers tend to have a higher percentage since there is more content from other sources. Please contact your instructor regarding the interpretation of your results (eg. what is "good" or "bad").



A breakdown of the indexes with the color codes are listed below:

0% (a valid result) --Blue icon
1-24%--Green icon
25-49%--Yellow icon
50-74%--Orange icon
75-100%--Red icon

Turnitin© does not tell Instructors whether a paper has or has not been plagiarized. Similarity Reports are simply tools to help you and your instructor locate potential sources of text that may have been incorrectly cited.

Paper Length

To submit a paper to Turnitin©, your paper must meet our requirements. Your paper must contain a minimum of 25 words, must be under 40MB (or approximately two million characters), less than 400 pages in length, and must not contain spaces in between every letter (like this).

Supported File Types

Supported Files include: Word, PDF, HTML, RTF, PowerPoint, or plain text.

Unsupported File Types

- Microsoft® Works (.wps) file types.
- Apple Pages file types.
- Spreadsheets created outside of Microsoft Excel (i.e. .ods).
- GDOC*** files (.gdoc) which are just links to online Google Document files, but don't actually contain text or the document's content. Google Drive must be used to upload Google Docs.

When a file is resubmitted to an assignment, the previous version of the file will be **overwritten** by the latest submission. Only one submission at a time can exist for each student in the assignment inbox. Once the assignment due-date has passed, no more resubmissions are allowed.



Common Student Misconceptions (see: [http://Turnitin\(c\).com/en_us/resources/blog/421-general/1644-top-15-misconceptions-about-Turnitin\(c\)](http://Turnitin(c).com/en_us/resources/blog/421-general/1644-top-15-misconceptions-about-Turnitin(c)))

Misconception 1: Student's copyrights are compromised in some way by Turnitin®.

Reality: The United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit unanimously affirmed that Turnitin®'s archiving of work was not a copyright infringement because it falls within the fair use exception. Please see our "Answers to Common Legal Questions about Turnitin®."

Misconception 2: Papers in the Turnitin® database are easily accessible by others so privacy is not protected.

Reality: Papers are secure from prying eyes. No one can go into the student database.

Misconception 3: The "Similarity Index" shows the percentage of paper that is plagiarized.

Reality: The Similarity Index is just a percentage of material in the paper that matches sources in the Turnitin® databases. Text that is quoted and cited will be included in the Similarity Index, which offers a great opportunity to check for proper citation.

Misconception 4: Turnitin® detects plagiarism.

Reality: Turnitin® matches to text in our databases and leaves the judgment up to the instructor. As mentioned above, instructors MUST look at the Originality Reports to determine if there is a problem.