



MCU Plagiarism and Copyright Policy

As a student, you are constantly reading from textbooks, viewing websites or teaching DVDs, and discussing ideas with one another. As you become midwives of technical expertise, professional excellence and personal greatness, it is very important that you credit the original author's written work, recorded work, spoken word, or ideas. Failing to give credit where credit is due is known as plagiarism. Copying, distributing, modifying or displaying a copyrighted work is known as copyright infringement.

Plagiarism and copyright infringement can be intentional or unintentional. In order to help you avoid plagiarism and copyright infringement, please keep in mind the following:

1. Students are required to use APA format to cite all specific sources both in-text and in a reference list.
2. Avoid writing papers that "cut and paste" beyond what is appropriate. Generally speaking, no more than 20% of your paper should be direct quotes. Your instructor is looking for papers with your thoughts and ideas as well as supporting references.
3. Did you know that if you paraphrase another person's written or spoken words, you are also plagiarizing? "You are guilty of the academic offense known as plagiarism if you half-copy the author's sentences – either by mixing the author's phrases with your own without using quotation marks or by plugging in your synonyms into the author's sentence structure." (Writer's Reference, Diana Hacker, 5th edition). This is not to say that you cannot use another person's ideas or words and put them into your own words. Just remember that when you do so, you acknowledge the source of information using the APA format. For more information on appropriate use of the ideas or quotations, including examples of what is appropriate and what is not, please see A Writer's Reference, by Diana Hacker 6th edition, pages 418-423. Another helpful source can be found at: <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml#wwwplagiarism>
4. MCU does not tolerate the submission of a paper that is written by another person or is "ghostwritten".
5. If you own a copyrighted audio or video recording, you must have permission from the copyright holder to copy, distribute, modify, display or perform their work. If you do not have this permission, you are infringing upon the copyright and could be subject to legal prosecution by the owner of the copyright.

Plagiarism Consequences

Any time a teacher sees plagiarism, it will be reported to the Distance Director and a log of the incident will be placed in the student's file.

First offense: Instructor will conference with the student and student will redo the assignment.

Second offense: Automatic failure on the assignment and mandatory conference with MCU President and/or Academic Dean and/or Distance Director.

Third offense: Failure of the course and possible expulsion from Midwives College of Utah.