



Policy on Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional presentation of another person's work, words, manner of expression, or ideas as one's own without appropriately acknowledging the source, even when it is done with the consent of the person concerned. Plagiarism is stealing, is unethical and is against the fundamental values of integrity, fairness and respect that St Mary's College holds as paramount.

Whether it is a research paper or an assignment, or any academic or non-academic work, this policy necessitates that the ideas, observations, findings, data, statements (in full or part), quotes, and any already created material that any member of the staff or student community of St Mary's College use/refer/cite be attributed to their original source adequately and appropriately. For example, direct quotations must be within quotation marks and can only be used along with the author name(s) and details of the original publication. In addition, the same must be included in citations and references as appropriate. Even where there is significant paraphrasing, the material should be attributed to and appropriately cited including author name(s) and details of publication. Any failure to adhere to this policy will have severe consequences for the member of the staff or the student indulging in plagiarism, in accordance with the UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION (PROMOTION OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PREVENTION OF PLAGIARISM IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS) REGULATIONS, 2018.

The inclusion of material which is 'purchased' from another source inside or outside the college in an assignment or term-paper, or an attempt by a student to present as own work, the work of someone else or work dishonestly performed or done by improper means will be considered a breach of discipline resulting in the entire work/submission being disregarded and the student being warned. Any damage from any violation of copyrights is to be fully borne by the student involved. It is the responsibility of the teacher concerned to detect plagiarism in order to prevent acceptance of plagiarized student work(s) submitted to him/her in whatever context.

Any student or staff aiding/abetting a dishonest academic practice that may be deemed plagiarism will also be treated on par with one involved in plagiarism. Any stealing of work from another student or staff, especially one that sabotages the original author's credentials or work, will result in serious consequences for the student or the staff member perpetrating it, which depending on the severity of the act, may even include suspension or termination.

The Departmental Academic Integrity Panel (DAIP) chaired by the Head of the Department will attempt to prevent any plagiarized work from being forwarded for publication or presentation. When plagiarism is found in drafts, the DAIP will return the draft for removal of plagiarism, before the work can be resubmitted. Despite the efforts of the DAIP, if any staff member is found to be indulging in plagiarism, then s/he will first be denied access to incentives for research and publications for one full year and warned for breach of discipline. The person will not be allowed to represent the College in any Conference or Seminar or Workshop during the year. Further punitive actions will be in line with the UGC Regulations. Any damage from any violation of copyrights is to be fully borne by the individual(s) involved and the College will not bear any liability in this regard.

Every Head of the Department has access to Plagiarism Checker X (professional version) to detect and prevent plagiarism in his/her department. It is the responsibility of the DAIP to ensure that all papers published or presented by their department colleagues are free of plagiarism. Facilities offered to staff members for presenting papers in Conferences / Seminars etc and for research will be valid only after the Head of the Department concerned (as Chair of DAIP) has recorded his/her satisfaction about the absence of plagiarism in the paper / work involved. The Research Committee will function as the Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP) of St Mary's College.