Turnitin Statements to Include in Your Course

As of Spring 2018, all course outlines must include the following boilerplate statement (**whether you intend to use the software or not**):

> **Turnitin.com:** *Text matching software may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.*

You must provide students with an alternative to Turnitin. Because students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server you must give students an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography) to protect their privacy and security.

This statement can be found on the Office of Academic Integrity's webpage Using Turnitin In Your Course.

In your assignment that uses Turnitin include a link to the Office of Academic integrity's Guidelines for Students on How to Use Turnitin.

Regarding Turnitin's AI Detector Tool

The Turnitin statement in your course outline is considered to also cover the Turnitin AI Detection tool. Please see the memo from the Office of the Associate Vice-President, Academic (AVPA) regarding Turnitin and AI.

Statements to Include When Using Turnitin as an Educational Resource

The following statements are intended for instructors who are using Turnitin as an educational tool (i.e., allowing students to submit a draft to Turnitin and make changes before submitting their final version to Turnitin). These statements can accompany the assignment instructions.

What is Turnitin?

Turnitin is a text-matching tool that works by comparing your written assignment with a database of millions of web pages, academic books, and articles, as well as other students' papers. Instructors use Turnitin as a first step in detecting plagiarism. After comparing your assignment to the database, Turnitin generates a similarity index and a Similarity Report on your submission.

How is Turnitin used in this course?

In this course, **you will have the opportunity to use Turnitin to submit a draft** of your assignment and then correct any problems before you submit your final version for grading. Your instructor will grade your final version, not your draft. Checking your draft is **not** mandatory, but you are encouraged to use this opportunity to review your work before submitting it for grading.

How will it work?

Submit your draft to the dropbox for that assignment. In that dropbox you will be able to see the Turnitin similarity check results for your draft. You can then make changes to your draft and re-submit the final version of your written assignment to that same dropbox by the due date. Your instructor will then grade the final version that you have submitted to the appropriate dropbox.

When should I submit my draft?

We recommend that you submit your draft to the dropbox two to three days before the assignment is due. Once you submit your draft to the dropbox, it might take some time (i.e., minutes, or in some cases even a day or more) to receive the Turnitin Similarity Report. You will also need to give yourself time to interpret the report and then make any necessary adjustments to your paper before submitting the final version.

How do I see the Similarity Report?

You can view the Similarity Report from the Folder Submissions page. Click the coloured section beside the percentage rating to view the associated Similarity Report.

What will I receive from Turnitin?

Turnitin highlights and colour-codes unoriginal content and produces a Similarity Report that includes a similarity index (a percentage) indicating how much of the submission was not original. The Similarity Report can help you identify where you might have unintentionally used poor paraphrasing when summarizing information from another source.

When the Similarity Report is ready, you will see a percentage of the amount of matched (i.e., unoriginal) content. The percentage ranges are associated with colours, as follows:

- Light Blue: 0%
- Green: 1% to 24%
- Yellow: 25% to 49%
- Orange: 50% to 74%
- Red: 75% to 100%

How do I interpret the Similarity Report?

The percentage itself only tells you how much of the paper is the same as other sources (i.e., how much of your content is not original and can be found elsewhere): the higher the percentage, the more the assignment will require revisions. **Note that there is no "safe" colour or percentage.** Therefore, no percentage or colour in the Similarity Report can fully evaluate whether text has been plagiarized**.** Rather than focusing solely on the percentage, go through your paper and look at the highlighted sections which indicate where some re-writing needs to be done.

If you need help interpreting the Similarity Report, you can refer to the [Interpreting the Similarity Report](#) from the Turnitin website. There is a good video on how to interpret your Similarity Report – see [Understanding Text Similarity for Students](#). Also see LSE Learning Technology and Innovation's video How to Interpret the [Turnitin originality report – Guidance for students.](#)
If you need help with paraphrasing or summarizing, you can seek help from the [Writing and Communication Centre](#).