



## **POLICY ON ANTI-PLAGIARISM SOFTWARE AND SERVICES**

Revised and Approved by the UNL Faculty Senate Executive Committee on June 2, 2020

(Originally approved by the UNL Faculty Senate, September 11, 2007 as the UNL Policy on Safe Assignment Implementation and Use)

### **Use by Students:**

Students have access to anti-plagiarism software/service for submitting drafts of original academic work for draft screening, and to help them learn about proper citation and attribution of external resources. The service is available to all university students for use in academic courses.

### **How to Gain Access:**

Instructors may provide access through the learning management system. Students can contact the [UNL Library](#) for access and education.

### **Use by Faculty and Other Instructional Staff:**

An instructor is responsible for deciding whether or not to use the anti-plagiarism software/service in their course. It is the responsibility of instructors to be knowledgeable about, and to conform to the procedures in the Student Code of Conduct in taking actions based upon evidence produced by the anti-plagiarism software or by any other means. An anti-plagiarism software/service report that negatively impacts a student's grade must be shared with the student as specified in the Student Code of Conduct, {See article 3, section B 1a-1i of the Student Code of Conduct}. Notifications to students may appear in appropriate written documentation such as the course syllabus, LMS course announcements, and other systems faculty use to communicate with their classes. Instructors should not use an anti-plagiarism software/service without knowledge of the student.

Instructors should be aware that using non-UNL supported anti-plagiarism software carries privacy, security, and FERPA risks.

### **Exceptions for Topics of a Personal Nature:**

The anti-plagiarism software/service is a plagiarism detection system that compares student papers with external sources. This leads to the possibility that student papers containing sensitive personal information could be saved in the database. Instructors should use the option of database exclusion for assignments they have reason to believe to contain sensitive personal information, based on their knowledge of the assignment, knowledge of the content of a specific

paper, or on the request of a student for the database exclusion based on personal sensitivity issues.

**Use for Academic Assignments not associated with formal "Class" or Instructor:**

The use of the anti-plagiarism software/service for "non-credit" academic assignments will be determined by the faculty member or members responsible for supervising the academic experience in collaboration with UNL Canvas support. Advisors and program directors should make students responsible for submitting their qualifying or comprehensive examination papers. Student appeals related to the use of the anti-plagiarism software/service for non-credit academic assignments will follow the department, college, Graduate College, or Student Judicial Affairs appeals processes already in place for other academic matters (e.g. Student Appeals).

**Technical Support for Anti-Plagiarism Software/Service**

The Office of Information Technology Services (ITS) and the University Libraries will support anti-plagiarism software/service. Training for instructors and students is available via online training and scheduled consultation.