
Plagiarism Detection Technology Policy

Policy Sponsor:	Vice-President, Academic
Policy Contact:	Associate Vice-President, Student and Academic Services
Policy Number:	N/A
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Approval Group:	General Faculties Council
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Procedure:	Plagiarism Detection Technology Procedures

Purpose

To establish a framework for the use of plagiarism detection technology (PDT) at Athabasca University (AU).

Definitions

Instructors	AU academic staff members, clinical instructors, academic experts, coaches or tutors.
Plagiarism Detection Technology (PDT)	A product or service authorized at AU for the purpose of reviewing student work for originality.

Policy Statements

1. Only PDT authorized by the Associate Vice-President, Student and Academic Services (AVP-SAS), shall be supported and integrated into courses. The AVP-SAS shall consult with the University community about the selection of the authorized PDT.



2. PDT shall be available to students in all AU courses that use written assignments.
3. PDT shall be available to Instructors in all AU courses that use written assignments.
4. Course Coordinators determine whether and how PDT is used in assessing written assignments.
5. Course information shall clearly state that PDT is available, and provide a link to the instructions.
6. Students are deemed to agree, in enrolling in an AU course, to accept and adhere to the requirements and methods of the PDT in effect for that course, unless they communicate, in writing or by email, an objection to the course Instructor, with a copy to the relevant Dean (or designate), prior to the submission of the first course assignment. In such cases, the Instructor shall provide an alternate method of demonstrating originality. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - an annotated bibliography;
 - a draft bibliography identifying and documenting all sources and submitted on a specified date before the due date for the assignment;
 - a “scaffolded” assignment where the student submits an outline of their paper in advance and then at least one draft of the paper with their list of resources before the submission of the final paper with a bibliography; or
 - other options the Instructor and student have agreed upon.
7. Where a student and Course Coordinator cannot agree on an alternate method to the use of a PDT to authenticate authorship, the Dean (or designate) will determine a solution. The Dean’s decision will be final.
8. Students at all times retain the copyright in their work.
9. AU will develop and maintain the ability to train Instructors and orient students in the use of PDT. Training shall include both technological and pedagogical features. Instructors using PDT are required to become familiar with their management and interpretation.
10. Should the application of PDT to student work suggest potential academic misconduct, the Instructor is required to follow the AU Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures.
11. Any contracts entered into will follow AU policy and will ensure that appropriate stakeholders, including Contract Services and the FOIP/Policy office, have been consulted prior to the implementation of the technology.
12. AU Instructors and administrators shall adhere to the terms of licensing of any PDT employed by AU.



Applicable Legislation and Regulations

[Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. F-25](#)
[Alberta Post-Secondary Learning Act](#)
[Copyright Act of Canada](#)

Related References, Policies, Procedures and Forms

[Plagiarism Detection Technology Procedures](#)
[Use of Plagiarism Detection Technology Procedures](#)
[Student Academic Misconduct Policy](#)
[Student Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Procedures](#)
[Student Confidentiality Policy](#)
[Student Confidentiality Procedures](#)
Licensing agreement(s) with AU approved PDT

History

General Faculties Council, March 22, 2017, Motion # 37-06 (revised)
Governors of Athabasca University, June 7, 2013, Motion # 183-14 (approved)