USA English Department's
Policy on Academic Research Integrity for Graduate Students

Academic Research Integrity

Plagiarism is submitting material written or conceived by others without giving credit for their ideas or words. USA's *Lowdown* states: "As a community of students and scholars, the University strives to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All members of the community are expected to exhibit honesty and competence in academic work. This responsibility can be met only through earnest and continuing effort on the part of all students and faculty."

Avoiding Plagiarism

All sources for your papers must be clearly documented. Your use of others' words must be represented by the use of quotation marks, and your use of others' words and/or ideas must be represented by appropriate citations. Be sure to acknowledge all sources in your writing, including journal articles, books, lectures, and even your professors and classmates.

Scholarly papers you write must follow MLA guidelines for in-text citations, bibliography (Works Cited or Works Consulted pages), and footnotes and endnotes. You must cite all sources, whether they are text-based (books, journal articles, newspapers, etc.) or electronic ones (CD-ROMs, library databases, Internet, etc.). You should have ready access to the MLA Style Manual. If you do not own it, there are copies available in our library and at https://style.mla.org/.

Failure to follow MLA guidelines to avoid plagiarism constitutes a breach of academic integrity. For further information, please familiarize yourself with the University of South Alabama's plagiarism policies (see The Lowdown and USA's English Department website). If you have any questions about academic integrity and research protocols, please see your professor or the Graduate Coordinator of English.

Consequences

Violations of academic integrity may result in a failing grade on the plagiarized assignment(s), a failing grade in the course, and/or your actions being reported to the English Department Chair and to the Graduate School Dean for further action. In order to discourage plagiarism in English classes, some of your professors may use plagiarism detection software such as TURNITIN or otherwise investigate your academic research integrity.