



The Writing Center

DLA: Avoiding Academic Dishonesty

This DLA is a writable PDF form. You can enter your answers directly into this document.

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Do not complete this form in a web browser. You will not be able to save your work.

Name:

Important Note

To get completion credit for this DLA, make sure you complete all the required activities. If you'd like help while working on a specific DLA, you can meet with a specialist at the Writing Center. Keep in mind that you might need to schedule a second appointment to review your work, check your understanding, and get your completion credit. You can only review **ONE** DLA per appointment. (Check the last section of this DLA for information on making your appointment and receiving completion credit for your work).

Activities (approximately 1 hour)

Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

What is Academic Dishonesty?

Although we typically associate academic dishonesty with just plagiarism, it can actually take many more forms. The main idea is that the author of an assignment is being dishonest about how the work was done and who completed the work. Below is a list of not only the different variations of plagiarism, but other forms of academic dishonesty.

1. Plagiarism includes the following:
 - Copying material word for word
 - Copying portions of another person's work without citation
 - Replacing words with synonyms to try to bypass plagiarism detectors without rewriting syntactical structures
 - Paraphrasing material, in your own words, from one or more sources, without proper citation
 - Copy and pasting material from multiple sources without citation
 - Citing sources inaccurately or fabricating sources
 - Using past work that is your own (you need professor discretion to do so)
 - Paying online services or someone else to complete an assignment for you
2. Receiving or knowingly supplying unauthorized information
3. Citing an excess of sources to meet a word or page count.
4. Using unauthorized material or sources
5. Changing an answer after work has been graded and presenting it as improperly graded

- How might academic dishonesty affect the future of your academic career?

AI Policies and Practices at Mt. SAC

What is Generative AI?

At a simplified level, generative AI works similarly to your phone's predictive text feature. It uses algorithmic "thinking" to create an output by predicting what comes next; it just does so on a larger scale. Going a step beyond that explanation, generative AI uses large language models (LLMs), which are systems trained on massive amounts of information, to predict what the next words (or more specifically, "tokens") are likely to be and produce responses by repeating that predictive process. These models "learn" (i.e., are trained to recognize and replicate) patterns from large datasets during training and store those patterns as parameters (generally referred to as "weights") that determine the output.

When generative AI is prompted to produce something, the model creates its output by generating the next probable tokens. Because generative AI is producing text based on how it was trained, and not necessarily researching or checking the accuracy of the information, it may hallucinate (which is the common term used when generative AI has invented details, citations, or confident claims that are inaccurate). While generative AI is constantly changing and improving, understanding how it works can give us some insight into what these technologies can (and cannot) accomplish.

Per Mt. SAC's Student Academic Integrity Policy, plagiarism includes submitting work that is not your own, without attributing credit, such as paraphrasing or quoting sources without naming them or using artificial intelligence (AI)-generated content without citation.

This means if you do use AI on an assignment, you must cite that you have AI generated content in your assignment; however, because different professors have varying policies on AI use in their classes, it is important to thoroughly read their syllabi, and ask any questions you may have to clarify the what extent to which you may or may not use it. However, it tends to range somewhere in between four policies:

Use prohibited: Students are not allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools including but not limited to ChatGPT or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course. Each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools.

Use only with prior permission: Students are allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course if instructor permission is obtained in advance. Unless given permission to use those tools, each student is expected to complete each assignment without substantive assistance from others, including automated tools.

Use only with acknowledgement: Students are allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course if that use is properly documented and credited. For example, text generated using ChatGPT-3 should include a citation such as: "Chat-GPT-3. (YYYY, Month DD of query). "Text of your query." Generated using OpenAI. <https://chat.openai.com/>" Material generated using other tools should follow a similar citation convention.

Use is freely permitted with no acknowledgement: Students are allowed to use advanced automated tools (artificial intelligence or machine learning tools such as ChatGPT or Dall-E 2) on assignments in this course; no special documentation or citation is required.

Activity 2: Reflect on what you've learned

Based on the information above, what should you do before you decide to use AI to complete an assignment?

Citation: Why is it important?

Academic integrity

Citing information is important to maintain academic integrity in your work and as a student. When in doubt, always cite. This will avoid any conflict or confusion about where your information is coming from and how you found it. Scholars and researchers work hard to make sure their work is thorough and often go through multiple rounds of peer review before their work is finally published. For this reason, we want to honor their hard work and ideas by giving credit where it is due.

Engaging in discourse

Any time you use a source in academic writing, you are entering a discourse, or a larger intellectual conversation, about the topic you've chosen to write on. You want to think of your paper as engaging in a conversation with all of the scholars whose research you are using. This is another reason why it is important to cite your sources. Although it may feel like it sometimes, we do not write in a vacuum. Your reader needs to know with whom you are engaging, what ideas you are championing or challenging, and how you synthesize all these ideas to cultivate your own understanding and perspective on this topic. Discourse is vital to the progress of ideas and research, so you want to credit the ideas you are drawing from that have helped you formulate your own points of view

Establishing your credibility as a writer

Similar to engaging in discourse with other people's ideas, citing your sources helps establish your credibility as a writer. By showing you have a variety of sources that draw from multiple perspectives, you show your reader that you have thoroughly researched the concepts you intend to write about. When you cite, you show that you are drawing from experts in the field of your chosen topic, which proves that you have done the learning necessary to qualify you to discuss said topic; in other words, you are building your ethos as a writer when you show who your academic influences are.

A note on paraphrase and summary:

Although you can paraphrase and summarize information as opposed to directly quoting, and some styles even prefer this (like APA), you want to be sure you are still citing the information that you are summarizing and paraphrasing. Sometimes, summary and paraphrase can also veer too closely to the original content you are pulling from. This might even look like keeping the same sentence structure from a source and only replacing a few words. This puts you at risk of plagiarizing, so always practice caution when paraphrasing and summarizing, and try your best to use your own words and writing style to explain an idea from a source you are pulling from.

Activity 3: Comprehension check

Using the examples of academic dishonesty on page 1, look at the following scenarios and determine what kind of academic dishonesty each one exemplifies and explain why it is dishonest.

Example: You copy the definition of mitosis from a biology textbook directly into your research paper.

Answer: This is copying material word for word; this is dishonest because it is not citing the textbook as the source of the information being presented in the essay.

1. You try to paraphrase a quote from a scholarly source by changing out three or four words in a paragraph of five sentences.
2. You make the timestamp of a documentary span five minutes when really it was one minute.
3. You cite a quote from page thirty-six when it was actually on page seven.
4. You re-use a research paper you wrote about gender inequality in the workplace last semester for your gender studies class this semester without checking with your professor first.
5. You pay your friend who took the same course and professor last semester to complete a writing assignment for you.
6. You pull ideas from a secondary source about a novel you are reading in class and present them as your own analyses of the novel.

□ 4. Review the DLA/Receive Completion Credit

1. Go to [EAB Navigate](#) and make an appointment (online or in-person).
2. Attend your session and be prepared to explain your understanding of the information you've learned in the DLA. Consider the main concept you learned and how you might use this in your future assignments/classes.
3. If your professor asks you to provide proof, you can review the "appointment summary report" through EAB Navigate (app or desktop). You will find all Writing Center appointments under "appointment summary reports" (app or desktop). Look for the summary report for your DLA appointment. This is where your writing specialist will indicate the title of your DLA and state whether it is "completed" or "not completed." If it is marked as "not completed," book a follow up appointment to complete.

Note: Appointment summary reports are also sent weekly to your instructor on record. If there is an issue, please contact us at writingcenter@mtsac.edu or (909) 274-5325.

If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center's website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, access@mtsac.edu, (909) 274-4290.

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