Dissertation, Doctoral Research Project, Master’s Thesis
Plagiarism Prevention Policy

Approved by MCE Faculty Governance on September 9, 2014

The University of Denver has a very clear policy regarding plagiarism. Plagiarism, as a concept, can be somewhat confusing for students. In an effort to increase clarity regarding the definition and operational implications of plagiarism as well as to protect the individual students as well as the Morgridge College of Education we will be instituting a policy related to culminating written projects, which include dissertations, doctoral research projects (EdD students only), and master’s theses.

Prior to submission for review students will be responsible for using the Turnitin, which is a plagiarism-prevention service, to check the document for plagiarism. The process will be as follows:

1. The student completes the project.
2. The student runs the document through Turnitin.
3. Turnitin produces a report.
4. The student reviews the report.
5. The student makes any necessary changes to the document.
6. The student writes a ONE PAGE summary of his/her efforts regarding the process. This should include a statement that the student indeed ran the document through the software program. It should also briefly explain any changes that were made and if changes were not made why not.
7. The summary, along with the Turnitin report, are submitted with the document to the professor.

This process will be used by every student. Students are still expected to be arbiters of their own honesty. This process does not shift the onus of responsibility in any way to the faculty, rather it is another step in attempting to reduce and avoid plagiarism.