

Turnitin.com Tips and Suggestions for Faculty

1.	<p>Notify students in writing (recommended in course syllabus) that Turnitin.com will be used in your course. Wording similar to the wording below (adapted from San Diego State University and University of Massachusetts, Amherst) is suggested:</p> <p>“Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers this term and in the future. Students may submit their papers in such a way that no identifying information about them is included. Students that choose not to submit their papers may be required to submit copies of the cover page and the first cited page of each source listed in the bibliography with a final paper in order to receive a grade on the assignment.”</p>
2.	<p>Faculty members may consider allowing students to submit their own papers to Turnitin.com to ensure that they are aware that the paper is being checked for plagiarism.</p>
3.	<p>Remind students that they have an obligation to abide by Lander University’s Academic Honor Code (found in the Student Handbook pp 6-11 and Faculty Handbook, Section VI), including avoiding plagiarism as defined in the Student Handbook (page 15), and that violations will be referred to the Honor Council as described in the Student Handbook pp 6-11(Faculty Handbook, Section VI).</p>
4.	<p>Student papers are checked against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and archived copies of the internet (over 4.5 billion pages) • ProQuest Database of published works • Gutenberg Collection of literary classics • Student papers submitted to Turnitin since 1996
5.	<p>Be aware that Originality Reports do not provide proof of plagiarism; they are a tool that provides data that will require further scrutiny from faculty members. Turnitin.com is not a stand-alone solution to the problem of academic dishonesty (see list of limitations below).</p>
6.	<p>Faculty members should be aware that when student papers are submitted to the Turnitin.com database, those papers remain in the Turnitin.com database. For some, this is a controversial practice, although Turnitin.com has consistently won legal challenges because student papers are never published and students retain full rights to and ownership of their papers. There is an option to check student papers against online sources only, in which case the student papers are not retained in the Turnitin.com database. Some faculty members choose to assign students an alias when submitting papers for this reason.</p>
7.	<p>Faculty members can choose to make originality reports accessible to students or to retain ‘instructor-only’ access to originality reports.</p>
8.	<p>Faculty can request a Turnitin.com account by e-mailing turnitin@lander.edu. Once an account has been requested, faculty members may request an orientation session or proceed to configure their account using Turnitin.com’s training resources.</p>
9.	<p>Limitations of the Turnitin.com software that faculty members should be aware of include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not differentiate between passages that are properly quoted and cited and those that are not • Does not detect ideas taken from a source, including significant paraphrasing and summary • Does not have ability to check papers against all subscription-based databases • Does not identify sources that are not on-line, such as textbooks or papers purchased through paper mills, unless they are already in the Turnitin.com database • Does not identify on-line material from internet discussion groups/list-serves; on-line encyclopedias; translated texts, diagrams, pictures and graphs

Information in this document has been compiled and revised from:

- Turnitin.com
- Instructional Technology Services at San Diego State University
- Center for Educational Resources at The Johns Hopkins University
- Center for Instructional Development and Distance Education at the University of Pittsburgh
- Library Resources at University of Massachusetts, Amherst