

Plagiarism Policy

Preface

The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai faculty and students are committed to high standards of excellence and personal responsibility as stated in our Standards of Conduct. To that end, faculty and students are expected to assume responsibility for their behavior and work.

Definition

According to the AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors (10th edition)¹, plagiarism is when an author documents or reports ideas, words, data, or graphics, whether published or unpublished, of another as his or her own and without giving appropriate credit. Plagiarism of published work violates standards of honesty and collegial trust and may also violate copyright law (if the violation is shown to be legally actionable).¹

The AMA Manual of Style goes on to define four common kinds of plagiarism:

1. Direct plagiarism: Verbatim lifting of passages without enclosing the borrowed material in quotation marks and crediting the original author.
2. Mosaic: Borrowing the ideas and opinions from an original source and a few verbatim words or phrases without crediting the original author. In this case, the plagiarist intertwines his or her own ideas and opinions with those of the original author, creating a “confused, plagiarized mass.”
3. Paraphrase: Restating a phrase or passage, providing the same meaning but in a different form without attribution to the original author.
4. Insufficient acknowledgment: Noting the original source of only part of what is borrowed or failing to cite the source material in a way that allows the reader to know what is original and what is borrowed.

Potential Venues

In the medical school environment, there are numerous situations that students must be cognizant of when representing their work accurately and honestly. These include, but are not limited to:

- Scholarly work including scientific papers, proposals, presentations, and posters
- The electronic medical record in the context of appropriating another’s documentation into one’s own without clear attribution
- Written examinations or assignments whether formative or summative
- Essays and personal statements on applications for training, awards, or any other reason

Consequences

All concerns regarding plagiarism will be reviewed by the Senior Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education and Student Affairs and the Senior Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education and Curricular Affairs. Based upon their findings, a student may be referred to the Promotions Committee and be subject to its decisions which can include, but are not limited to, warning, probation, suspension, or dismissal.

Reference:

1. American Medical Association (AMA). (2009). *AMA Manual of Style: A Guide for Authors and Editors* (10th ed.). Chicago: JAMA/Archives Journals; Oxford University Press. Retrieved December 11, 2012, from <http://www.amamanualofstyle.com//oso/public/index.htm>