

# The Problem of Plagiarism in the PA Program

## PA Policy on Plagiarism:

The PA Program at Valdosta State University has adopted a zero-tolerance policy concerning plagiarism. Any student found guilty of plagiarism will be penalized; depending upon the nature and severity of the offense, penalties may be a failing grade for the assignment involved, a failing grade for the course, or dismissal from the program.

## Conformance to University Policy:

Universities across the country are seeing an increase in the rate of plagiarism, and Valdosta State University is no exception. VSU specifically prohibits plagiarism. Section 1.4 of the Appendix A of the current *Student Handbook* (p. 39) states:<sup>1</sup>

Plagiarism is prohibited. Themes, essays, term papers, tests, and other similar requirements must be the work of the student submitting them. When direct quotations are used, they must be indicated, and when the ideas of another are incorporated in the paper they must be appropriately acknowledged.

The *PA Student Handbook* states the following:

Research papers are to follow APA style. All material taken from any source—books, articles, newspapers, other student papers, class lectures, etc.—must be properly cited, and all sources identified. **Plagiarism is prohibited**, and may result in a failing grade for the assignment or for the course, and in extreme cases suspension or dismissal from the program.

## Student Requirements:

**Each student is required to read and be familiar with the section on plagiarism in the VSU *Thesis and Dissertation Guide* (pp. 25-28).** (The plagiarism section of the *Guide* is taken from Virginia Tech, with permission.) Each student must sign the following statement, and return that statement to the PA Coordinator.

### Student Statement:

I have read and I understand the section on plagiarism from the *VSU Thesis and Dissertation Guide*. I understand that any work submitted by me in the PA program may be submitted to an electronic data base to check for plagiarism, and that any work so submitted will be added to that data base. I understand that the minimum penalty for plagiarism is a failing grade on the plagiarized assignment. I further understand that plagiarism may result in me receiving a failing grade for the course involved or in termination from the program. I affirm that all work submitted by me to be original work, except where clearly documented.

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Name (Printed)

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Signature

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Date

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<sup>1</sup> The *Student Handbook* is available online, and students are strongly encouraged to read and be familiar with its contents.