

# MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

## Academic Integrity Program

### Access to Turnitin.com for Faculty

To assist faculty in identifying student writing that is plagiarized, the University purchases an annual license for all faculty to use Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com compares submitted student essays to its database of previously submitted student papers and to electronic sources (popular and scholarly) which are available on the web. The license allows faculty (and students if granted access by the instructor) to receive an Originality Report for each submitted piece of writing. You may use this resource only when you have suspicions about selected student writing or you may use it for all student writing.

### The Originality Report

An originality report reproduces the complete text of the submitted document. It highlights phrases, sentences and paragraphs that are identical to other sources. It identifies each source for which a similarity has been found and provides the similar passage to allow a close analysis to see if plagiarism has occurred.

The Originality Report does not judge whether plagiarism has actually occurred. It calculates a Similarity Index, a score between 0% and 100%, which reflects the proportion of words that exists between the submitted paper and found sources.

### To Use Turnitin.com

Send your request for a Turnitin.com account to [robert.otten@marymount.edu](mailto:robert.otten@marymount.edu). You will receive in reply an account number and a password. Enter this information at Turnitin.com's homepage by clicking on "New User" and following instructions.

Indicate in your syllabus that you intend to use Turnitin.com. The announcement may well have a deterrent effect of potential plagiarizers. It is important to alert students because all submissions to Turnitin.com become part of its database. Some object to this outcome on the grounds that individuals have intellectual property rights that Turnitin.com is seizing without compensation. To date, Turnitin.com has successfully defended its right to keep essays in its database.

<http://www.tuftsdaily.com/2.5512/after-the-dismissal-of-turnitin-com-lawsuit-by-district-court-web-site-will-continue-to-exist-1.587870>

Turnitin.com provides numerous on-line tutorials for generating originality reports and for other services. At this time the University does not provide training in the use of Turnitin.com

### Questions?

Contact Dr. Robert Otten, 703-284-3820.