

## The Cost of Plagiarism

The consequences of plagiarism can be serious and have an impact that spreads far beyond the plagiarized assignment. Although plagiarism may be tempting to students when they are stressed and overwhelmed with schoolwork, the decision to plagiarize may end up being anything but the easy way out.

### Failing Grades

<https://www.citadel.edu/root/plagiarism-faq>

- Most schools have zero-tolerance plagiarism policies. This means that if you are caught plagiarizing, you will likely fail the assignment and possibly the entire course.
- In fact, schools' plagiarism policies are often stricter than government copyright laws. Even if the material that you plagiarize for a school assignment is not copyrighted, you are just as likely to face consequences as if the material you plagiarized was copyrighted.

### Serious Academic Consequences

<https://www.ithenticate.com/resources/6-consequences-of-plagiarism>

- Many schools' plagiarism policies include consequences of academic probation, suspension, or even expulsion for students who plagiarize.
- A record of plagiarism may lead to difficulty in gaining admission to other colleges and universities in the future.

### Decreased Learning

<https://aquinas.libguides.com/library/plagiarism>

- Even if you are not caught, there is still an academic cost to plagiarism.
- Teachers give writing assignments to allow in-depth learning and demonstration of your knowledge. When you copy someone else's work, you miss out on this experience.
- This missed learning may lead to difficulty in higher-level courses or in future employment.

### Legal Repercussions

<https://www.ithenticate.com/plagiarism-detection-blog/bid/52974/Plagiarism-Punishment#.YHCbGOhKjIV>

- Although most cases of academic plagiarism are handled by school disciplinary boards, plagiarism in your professional life (such as works published on company websites, in newspapers, or in professional journals) or in your personal life (such as on a blog) can have legal consequences.
- Plagiarism is a misdemeanor, punishable with fines of up to \$50,000 or even jail time.

## Is it worth the cost?

Even one instance of plagiarism can have far-reaching consequences that impact your academic career, future employment options, and personal reputation.

Plagiarism is **never** worth the cost.