

Plagiarism Policy and Procedures for NSU Online Programs

Grading decisions reside firmly within the sound discretion of faculty members. It is only when a faculty member bases a grade in whole or in part upon a finding of plagiarism that a student may seek review of a grade.

If a faculty member both identifies plagiarism in student work and bases a grade in whole or in part on that plagiarism, the faculty member must inform the student and the program office of the occurrence in writing. A copy of the written report from the faculty member will be placed in the student's file.

If the student would like to challenge the faculty member's finding that he or she had engaged in plagiarism, he or she must first appeal to the faculty member in writing. If the student is not satisfied with the result of the appeal to the faculty member, he or she may appeal to the Program Director in writing. If the student is not satisfied with the result of the appeal to the Program Director, he or she may appeal to the Online Faculty Review Panel in writing. All appeals must be made in a timely manner, not to exceed seven (7) days from the date of the decision from which the student is appealing. The decision of the Online Faculty Review Panel is final. The Online Faculty Review Panel will consist of three faculty members appointed by the Program Director from the online program faculty.

Once a faculty member has supplied proof that plagiarism occurred, the student bears the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she did not engage in plagiarism.

Penalties for plagiarism range from imposition of a grading sanction to suspension from the program for a period of time to expulsion from the program. Absent extenuating circumstance, if a student is found to have engaged in plagiarism once, the sanction will consist of the grading sanction imposed by the faculty member and a written warning of the consequences to follow should the student engage in plagiarism again. Similarly absent extenuating circumstances, a second instance of plagiarism will result in suspension from the program for one year.