WHAT IS TURNITIN?

Turnitin is a service available in ulearn to all faculty to aid with verifying originality of student work. Faculty using Turnitin are required to comply with the Faculty Guidelines for using Turnitin.

Originality/AI-Detection Indicators

Turnitin is a web-based service available to all faculty at all JWU campuses that indicates the originality of student work. The Turnitin Originality Report compares papers submitted by students with over 150 million previously submitted papers, 14 billion pages of web content, and more than 90,000 subscription-based journals and periodicals. Turnitin generates originality reports which indicate textual similarities between student papers and content in its database.

Turnitin also includes an artificial intelligence (AI) writing detection model that indicates the overall percentage of text in a submission that may have been AI-generated. Turnitin's AI writing detection model only looks for prose sentences contained in long-form writing. Prose text contained in long-form writing means individual sentences that make up a longer piece of written work, such as an essay, a dissertation, or an article, etc. The model does not detect AI-generated text such as poetry, scripts, or code. Nor does it detect short form/unconventional writing such as bullet points, tables, or short exam answers.

Turnitin does not determine if a student committed plagiarism or used AI. It is up to the faculty member to review the report, the student paper, other student writing artifacts and make a determination on their own if plagiarism has occurred or AI was used. Turnitin is simply a tool to aid faculty in detecting plagiarism and AI-generative text. Even materials that have been cited properly will show up as being a textual match in the originality reports (unless you exclude them from the reports). Therefore, careful analysis of the originality reports and student papers is necessary before approaching a student about possible plagiarism or AI use. Students who appear to need assistance with proper citation methods can be referred to the MLA Manual LibGuide.

Turnitin can be used not only for identifying cases of plagiarism. It can also be used as a teaching tool. Instructors have the option of allowing students to see their own originality reports or instructors can share originality reports with students. These reports can be used to teach students about proper usage of existing materials.

There are limitations to Turnitin. Although it is able to search billions of digital sources, Turnitin does not have access to printed materials available in the JWU libraries or in other libraries.

Digital Grading

Digital Grading Faculty at JWU have access to Turnitin's Feedback Studio feature. Feedback Studio allows instructors to use a digital (paperless) workflow for grading/marking up papers and returning them to students.