

ARAB OPEN UNIVERSITY

Scheme of Plagiarism Penalties (Revisited and Updated)

Plagiarism at AOU is considered as serious academic offences and therefore dealt with stringently. Students and tutors alike are expected to comply with academic standards and rules for students' assessments that stress academic integrity.

AOU generic plagiarism scheme for all courses except specific courses of FCS Programme.

Offence (First time)	Penalty	Further Actions	
Plagiarized/copied percentage	Proposed Deduction of Marks	Preventive Measures	Documentation
0-30%	Assessment is marked as normal. The Plagiarized section is not marked. Tutor should comment on the plagiarized sections of the script.	Student is directed to refer to plagiarism tutorial.	
Over 30%	Award zero mark	Student is directed to refer to the plagiarism tutorial and test.	Formal warning shall be given to the student in addition to placing the incident in the student record
Purchased Assignment/Contract Cheating	Award zero mark	Student is directed to refer to the plagiarism tutorial and test.	Formal warning shall be given to the student in addition to placing the incident in the student record

Collusion			
Similarity level of less than 50%	No marks will be awarded for the plagiarized sections	Student is directed to refer to the plagiarism tutorial and test	Formal warning shall be given to the student in addition to placing the incident in the student record
Similarity level of 50% and more	Award zero mark		Formal warning shall be given to the student in addition to placing the incident in the student record

Following is the plagiarism penalty scheme for Faculty of Computer Studies (pursuant to the nature of the course)

FCS - Plagiarism Penalties

[Implemented starting from Summer 2019-20]

After the Spring-CAC/FEC 2019-20, FCS has thoroughly revised the plagiarism penalties for all the level 2/5 and 3/6 modules. Modules with similar nature have been clustered to follow the same rules. The three main clustered are as follows:

- **Group 1- Programming related modules:** all modules addressing software development, algorithms design, and programming
- **Group 2- Networking related modules:** all modules addressing networking subjects
- **Group 3 – Theoretical modules:** all modules addressing project management, report writing, and ethics.

Hereby, the similarity ratios and their corresponding penalties for each group are as follows:

Group 1- Programming related modules:

M269, M251, TM351, TM354, TT284, TM240, TM366, and TM298

Similarity boundaries/penalties that we will follow:

1. Similarity between [80% - 89%]: deduct 50% of the marks
2. Similarity between [90% - 95%]: deduct 70% of the marks
3. Similarity between [96% - 100%]: Students get zero, and subject for further investigation (if necessary).

Group 2- Networking related modules:

T215A, T215B, T216A , T216B, T316, T318, and TM355

Similarity boundaries/penalties that we will follow:

1. Similarity < 50%: no grade deduction and provide the students informative and constructive feedback to improve his answers.
2. 50% < similarity < 75%: grade deduction of 15% on the whole assignment grade.
3. 75% < similarity < 90%: grade deduction of 30% on the whole assignment grade
4. Similarity > 90%: the student will be granted zero on the whole assignment based on the Turnitin report and academic judgment of the corrector.

Group 3 – Theoretical Modules

T227, TM260, and M253

Similarity boundaries/penalties that we will follow:

1. Similarity between 30% - 50%, then no grade deduction.
2. Similarity between 51% - 75%, apply 15% grade deduction on the plagiarized parts
3. Similarity between 76% - 90%, apply 30% grade deduction on the plagiarized parts
4. Similarity between 91% - 95%, apply 50% grade deduction on the plagiarized parts
5. Similarity is more than 95%, then give zero (0) grade plagiarized parts of the question.

In addition to above the concerned course tutor must use his / her academic judgment while marking the assessment.

It is to apply to AOU students at all levels (3-6). This simplified version is intended to ensure consistency in implementation of penalties among tutors in all branches/ programmes.

Students and Tutors are subject to appropriate disciplinary action in case of non -compliance to the plagiarism policy.

Second time offence:

Student get a zero mark in TMA in addition to reduction of course overall grade to pass mark only.

Third time offence:

Failure in the course.

Repeated Offences:

To be dealt according to Article 12 in Examination & Assessment Bylaws.

Article (12) Cheating in the Final Examinations and Plagiarism in TMAs

A) Any student found to be committing any act of cheating or plagiarism shall be referred to the competent disciplinary committee, which shall take its decisions in accordance to “Students’ Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures Bylaws” in force at AOU.

Penalties will be implemented through the disciplinary committee in accordance with Article 7 of (Students’ Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures Bylaws).

Where one of the following penalties shall apply:

- Failure in the academic course.
- Dismissal from the university for one semester being subsequent to the semester during which the violation has occurred.
- Dismissal from the university for more than one semester.
- Definitive dismissal from the university subject to the decision of the higher disciplinary board.

The attributed penalty may be imposed on case-to-case basis without necessarily adhering to the sequence mentioned in the provisions hereof.

Recording: All cases of plagiarism will be recorded in the student’s permanent record (SIS).