Policy on Plagiarism

Students within the University of Charleston School of Pharmacy are bound by the Standards of Academic, Personal, Professional and Social Conduct as put forth in the Student Handbook. The Student Handbook addresses the manner in which professional students of the School of Pharmacy should conduct themselves during their time as a student at the school, as well as the consequences for violating the policy. Under the University of Charleston and School of Pharmacy policy, plagiarism is recognized as a violation of the policy.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism consists of copying, in whole or in part, someone else’s work or presenting the work of others as the student’s own. The source of work used in research reports, term papers, presentations, projects, including written, electronic, and oral work, must always be attributed to the original author(s). This includes the use of published and/or unpublished works and the use of work authored by a paid or volunteer person. It also includes, but is not limited to, the use of words, data, graphics, photographs, video, or audio without proper citation of the original source. Students participating in experiential courses must adhere to all rules and regulations of the specific hospital, long-term care facility, industry site, etc., as well as to the policies of the University of Charleston and the School of Pharmacy. This includes the preparation of care plans, patient education materials, and assignments during rotations. Refer to the School of Pharmacy Student Handbook Academic Honesty Policy for more information regarding the procedures following an accusation of plagiarism.

Following are some specific examples of plagiarism.

- **Word-for-word plagiarism** is the exact or nearly exact copying of someone else’s work. Minor changes in wording or word order while using the same words and sentence structure still constitutes plagiarism.

- **Lifting** is copying what you think is the perfect phrase or expression from someone else’s work and pasting it into your own paper. Most lifting involves descriptive phrases, which are often very recognizable to people familiar with the original author’s work. The way particular ideas are expressed is as much the property of the original author as the idea itself. Lifting could also be applied to the copying of any images, pictures, graphs, charts, etc. for use within your work without acknowledgment.

- **Patchwork**, sometimes called Quilting, is akin to lifting. Perfect words or phrases are lifted from works of several authors and pasted together to construct a sentence, paragraph, or whole paper.

- **Common Knowledge**, also called common wording, is information that is either repeated in many sources or would be known by an ordinary educated person who had not researched the subject. For example, the date (December 7, 1941) of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor is common knowledge; no source would be given for this information. However, a specific historian’s opinion that the U.S. military should have been better prepared for the attack would not be considered common knowledge, and a source should be given for this view. In general, you are expected to show the source of all information (including facts, statistics, opinions, theories, lines of argument, examples, research results, etc.) except common knowledge. The definition of
"common knowledge" may vary according to the expertise of the writer and reader; however, it is better to err on the side of caution and reference a secondary source, if possible.

Proper acknowledgement of referenced work should follow the citation format adopted by the School of Pharmacy.