

Editorial

University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018

PREAMBLE

University Grants Commission (UGC), as per UGC act, 1956, is mandated to coordinate and determine the standards of higher education; and whereas, assessment of academic and research work done leading to the partial fulfillment for the award of degree at masters and research level, by a student or a faculty or a researcher or a staff, in the form of thesis, dissertation and publication of research papers, chapters in books, full-fledged books and any other similar work, reflects the extent to which elements of academic integrity and originality are observed in various relevant processes adopted by Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs); Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by clause (j) of Section 12 read with clauses (f) and (g) of sub section (1) of Section 26 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, the University Grants Commission hereby makes the following regulation:

Short Title, Application and Commencement

- These regulations shall be called the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018.
- The regulations given shall apply to the students, faculty, researches and staff of all higher educational institutions in the country and shall come into force from date of their notification in the Official Gazette.

Definitions

- "Academic Integrity" is the intellectual honesty in proposing, performing and reporting any activity, which leads to creation of intellectual property.
- "Author" means a student/faculty/researcher/staff of HEI who claims to be the creator of the work under consideration.
- "Commission" refers to the UGC as defined in the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.
- "Common Knowledge" means a well-known fact/quote/figure/information that is known to most of the people.
- "Degree" refers to any such degree specified by the University Grants Commission, by notification in the Official Gazette, under Section 22 of University Grants Commission act 1956.
- "Departmental Academic Integrity Panel means the body constituted at the departmental level to investigate allegations of plagiarism.
- "Faculty" means a person who is teaching or guiding students enrolled in an HEI in any capacity.
- "Higher Educational Institution" means a university recognized under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956 or an institution deemed to be university under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 or an affiliating college/institution or a constitution unit of a university.
- "Information" means data, message, text, images, sound, voice, codes, computer programs, software and databases or microfilm or computer generated microfiche.
- "Institutional Academic Integrity panel" means the body constituted at institutional level to consider recommendations of the departmental academic integrity panel to be imposed.
- "Notification" refers to notification published in the Official Gazette and the expression notifies with its cognate meanings and grammatical variation shall be construed accordingly.
- "Programme" means a programme of study leading to the award of masters and research level degree.
- "Plagiarism" means the practice of taking someone else's work or idea and passing them as one's own.
- "Script" includes research paper, thesis, dissertation, chapters in books, full fledges books and any other similar work, submitted for assessment/opinion leading o the award of master and research level degrees.
- "Source" means published primary and secondary material from any source whatsoever and includes written information and opinions gained directly from other people.
- "Staff" refers to all non-teaching staff working in HEIS in any capacity.
- "Student" means a person duly admitted and pursuing a program of study including a research program in any mode of study.

- “University” means a university established or incorporated by or under Central Act.
- “Year” means the academic session in which a proven offence has been committed.

Objectives

- To create awareness about responsible conduct of research, thesis, dissertation, promotion of academic integrity and prevention of misconduct.
- To establish institutional mechanism through education and training to facilitate responsible conduct of research, thesis, dissertation and deterrence from plagiarism.
- To develop systems to detect, prevent plagiarism and punish for committing the act of plagiarism.

Duties of HEI

To enhance awareness about responsible conduct of research and academic activities to prevent plagiarism.

Awareness Programs and Trainings

- HEI shall instruct students, faculty, researcher and staff about proper attribution, seeking permission of author wherever necessary.
- HEI shall conduct sensitization seminars/awareness programs every semester on responsible conduct of research, thesis, and dissertation, promotion for students, faculty, researcher and staff.

Curbing Plagiarism

- HEI shall ensure that documents are free of plagiarism at time of their submission.
- Every student submitting a thesis, dissertation or any other shall submit an undertaking indicating that document is original, free of plagiarism and prepared by him/her.
- The undertaking shall include the fact that the document has been duly checked through plagiarism detection tool and has been approved by HEI.
- HEI shall create institutional repository on institute website which shall include dissertation/thesis/paper/publication.

Levels of Plagiarism

In ascending order of severity:

Level 0: Similarities up to 10% — minor similarities, no penalty

Level 1: Similarities above 10% — 40%

Level 2: Similarities above 40% — 60%

Level 3: Similarities above 60%.

Detection/Reporting/Handling of Plagiarism

If any member of the academic community suspects with appropriate proof that case of plagiarism has happened, then he or she shall report to Department Academic Integrity Panel (DAIP), which in turn investigates and submits its recommendations to Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP).

Departmental Academic Integrity Panel (DAIP)

Includes:

- Chairman, Head of the Department
- Member: To be nominated by HEI, senior academician from outside department.
- Member: A person versed with antiplagiarism tools.

Institutional Academic Integrity Panel (IAIP)

Includes:

- Chairman, Pro-VC/Dean/Senior Academician of HEI
- Member, Senior Academician other than Chairman, nominated by HEI Head

- Member: Nominated by head from outside the HEI
- Member: A person well versed with plagiarism tools.

Penalties

Penalties in cases of plagiarism could be imposed on students pursuing at the level of Masters and Research programs, faculty, and staff only after a academic misconduct has been established without any doubt, provided enough opportunity to defend himself or herself in a fair manner.

IAIP could impose penalty based on the severity of plagiarism:

- Level 0: Similarities up to 10%: No penalty
- Level 1: Similarities above 10%: To submit a revised script not exceeding 6 months
- Level 2: Similarities above 40–60%: Debarred from submitting a revised script
- Level 3: Above 60%: Registration for that program shall be cancelled.

In cases of academic and research publications

- Level 0: Similarities up to 10%: No penalty
- Level 1: Above 10% to 40%: Asked to withdraw manuscript
- Level 2: 40% to 60%: Withdraw manuscript; denied a right to one annual increment; not allowed for new masters, PhD, for a period of two years.
- Level 3: Above 60%: Same as level 2 and denied a right to two annual increments.

Removal of Difficulty

UGC reserves right to remove difficulties in the course of implementation of these regulations along with Government of India/Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Vandana KL

Professor

Department of Periodontics

College of Dental Sciences, Davangere, Karnataka

Nagaveni NB

Professor

Department of Pedodontics and Preventive dentistry

College of Dental Sciences, Davangere, Karnataka