

Guidelines of the Department of Computer Science for dealing with plagiarism

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What is plagiarism?

Plagiarism is described by the Oxford Learner's Dictionary as "the practice of copying another person's ideas, words or work and pretending that they are your own." ¹

In the context of a university, plagiarism refers primarily to the unrecognizable use of third-party scientific material. It does not matter whether the material has been published or not; but that the omission of a citation suggests that the material is the author's own.

The act of plagiarism is considered attempted, deliberate deception. The Department of Computer Science therefore actively pursues plagiarism and uses a strict regulation on how to deal with it.

What is considered plagiarism?

Possible instances of plagiarisms are:

- passing off someone else's material as your own,
- copy foreign text excerpts without citing the actual source,
- copying other people's ideas without citing the actual source,
- making incorrect references to sources,
- substituting individual words and the basic wording, but keeping the sentence structure of a foreign text without quoting the actual source,

Deliberately making one's own material available for plagiarism by others is also plagiarism.

What is thus prohibited?

- The transcription of solutions of assignments
- The partial copying or complete adoption of code to programming tasks
- The use of foreign approaches to the solution without citation
- The copying of other people's solutions in exams
- The use of prohibited aids in examinations
- The adoption of external material in the Bachelor's/Master's thesis and dissertations without citation, bearing in mind that texts, drawings, and tables must also be correctly cited
- Revealing your own solutions to assignments to others before the deadline
- The sharing of solutions during an exam

The above list is not exhaustive. Similar actions can also be considered plagiarism.

What are the consequences of plagiarism?

Plagiarism that is discovered has to be penalized. The department recommends the following measures:

¹ <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/plagiarism> - retrieved on May 5, 2023

- **Assignments:** Upon first detection of even partial plagiarism, the entire assignment sheet will be graded 0 points. This may result in non-admission to the exam and/or reduction of bonus points. Upon detection of further instances of plagiarism, all exercise sheets of the course will be graded with 0 points (which can result in failing the entire course).
- **Seminars:** In case of detection of plagiarism (elaboration or presentation) the course is considered failed.
- **Internships:** If plagiarism is discovered, the partial performance is considered as not completed. If this is necessary to pass the internship and there is no possibility to compensate for a non-passed partial performance or if this has already been exhausted, this can lead to failing the internship.
- **Theses:** The consequence of discovered plagiarism should be penalized depending on its severity. Sloppy citation on a small scale can still be counted as a deficiency in methodology, but this must have a negative impact on the evaluation of the thesis and the grade. On the other hand, in the case of more serious offenses, such as copying texts without identifying them or concealing sources of scientific ideas used, failing the paper is recommended.

In the event of serious and repeated violations, more extensive measures are possible.

Who is affected by the consequence?

In general, all persons involved in a specific instance of plagiarism will be affected by the consequences. Besides the plagiarists themselves, this may also include the creators and disseminators of the original solution.

Plagiarism can result in exmatriculation!

Plagiarism is considered as attempted cheating. According to the General Part of the Examination Regulations 2015 §33 Section 3 applies:

"(1) If a candidate attempts to influence the result of his or her examination performance through deception or the use of unauthorized aids, the examination performance in question shall be deemed to have been graded "unsatisfactory" (5.0).

(2) A candidate who disrupts the proper conduct of the examination may be excluded from continuing the examination performance by the respective examiner or by the person supervising the examination; in this case, the examination performance in question shall be deemed to have been graded "unsatisfactory" (5.0).

(3) In serious cases of sentences 1 and 2, the examination board may exclude the candidate from taking further examinations."

(PO 2010 §13 paragraph 3, PO 2012 §30 paragraph 3, PO 2016 §25 paragraph 3)

Code of Conduct

I have read and understood the above regulations on dealing with plagiarism. In addition, I declare that I am prepared to write all papers in the course of my studies independently, without outside help and only with the means specified.

Place, date: _____

Signature: _____