

Written Oath of Academic Research Ethics

To the Dean of the Graduate School of Political Science:

I declare that I understand the definition of plagiarism stated in the Study Guide for Students and attached "Precautions Regarding Master's Thesis, Examinations, and Reports", and I hereby pledge not to plagiarize or commit any similar offense when writing my Master's thesis.

Furthermore, I fully recognize that if I commit such an act, I will be strictly punished (suspension from the School for an indefinite period, invalidation of the latest semester's credits, failure of my Master's thesis, etc.), and that my degree will be canceled if such behavior is discovered after the conferral of my degree.

I pledge that I will submit my master's thesis with a full and complete understanding of the above disciplinary measures.

/ / (yyyy/mm/dd)

Graduate School of Political Science Master's Program

Major _____ Course _____

Student ID: _____

Name (in block letters): _____

Signature: _____

How to Avoid Plagiarism

Plagiarism Is Misconduct

Plagiarism is an act that must absolutely never be committed by an aspiring researcher.

Plagiarism refers to the act of borrowing from the writings of other people or using the ideas that form the basis of those writings without following the necessary procedures of adding footnotes, etc., and writing or reporting on text that is not one's own, as if it were one's own writing or based on one's own ideas. Plagiarism constitutes misconduct on a par with cheating in an examination. Students must absolutely never commit plagiarism.

Even more than undergraduate school, graduate school demands that students write numerous reports. In addition, graduate school students must write a Master's thesis or a doctoral dissertation to complete their program and obtain a degree. Furthermore, students are given the opportunity to make submissions to academic journals and other publications, and present reports at meetings of academic societies. Basically, the content of these writings or presentations must be expressed in the student's own words, based on their own ideas as well as on their own surveys and analyses.

Of course, when writing reports or papers it is only natural for students to utilize or refer to the work of other researchers. However, even in those cases, when using other people's analyses or ideas, students must clearly cite the source of those excerpts in terms of the author's identity and the title of the publication. This may be done by, for example, providing footnotes based on a fixed format and rules.

If a student fails to do so, and writes something that is not their own as if it were based on their own analyses or ideas, such an act will constitute plagiarism. When plagiarism is found, the report, Master's thesis, or doctoral dissertation will receive a null grade as a matter of course, and students could face even stricter penalties. The Graduate School of Political Science will deal firmly with plagiarism, after discussing each case within the Ethics Committee established in the Graduate School.

Students who commit plagiarism could lose their opportunity to pursue a career as a researcher in the future. At many graduate schools in the United States, students who commit plagiarism are subject to disciplinary action as strict as expulsion from the university, making it impossible for the student to transfer to the graduate school of another university.

With the widespread use of the Internet in recent years, various academic papers are now posted on websites. Consequently, this has given rise to a growing number of cases where students simply copy and paste those writings into papers of their own. There has also been a considerable increase in cases where students do not go as far as copy and pasting, but rewrite part of the writings they find on the Internet and use the content in their own papers or reports without providing footnotes. In the event that a student has not put anything down on paper even when faced with pressing report or paper submission deadlines, students may be tempted to commit these actions. However, remember that there are consequences to succumbing to these temptations, including receiving a null grade for the paper or report, disciplinary action, or in the worst case the end of your career as a researcher. To avoid these kinds of consequences, students must never commit plagiarism.

How to Avoid Plagiarism

Willful plagiarism of somebody else's analyses, ideas, or writing is misconduct that cannot be tolerated. However, unless sufficient care is exercised, students may commit plagiarism unintentionally. To ensure that this does not happen, it is important that students develop the habit of constantly being aware of the following points at the very least:

- (1) Develop the habit of constantly distinguishing between your own ideas and other people's ideas when reporting or making statements.
- (2) When making use of other people's analyses, ideas, or writings, always clearly state in a footnote "who the author is," "which publications or reports," and "which sections of the literature" have been cited in accordance with a standard format.
- (3) Always provide footnotes as in (2) above, even when making use of other people's analyses, ideas, or writings by restating them in different words.
- (4) Always provide a bibliography of references you have made use of at the end of reports, papers, and presentations in class.
- (5) When taking notes or writing a memo of the content of works or papers you have read, always indicate from what page you have excerpted or paraphrased content.

Please give sufficient consideration to the above points to avoid unintentional plagiarism and to uphold the integrity of your research.

Websites for Student Reference

The following is a list of URLs to websites containing information about what exactly plagiarism is and how it can be avoided. Many of these websites are in English and are very useful as references, so please ensure that you read through them carefully.

(1) Waseda University School of Political Science and Economics' website warning against plagiarism

<http://www.waseda.jp/seikei/seikei/student/pdf/20051117touyouhyouseitu.pdf>

(2) UCL's website on plagiarism contains detailed information about what kinds of acts constitute plagiarism, among other topics.

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/current-students/guidelines/plagiarism>

(3) Northwestern University's (U.S.A.) website contains detailed information about how to avoid plagiarism.

<http://www.northwestern.edu/provost/students/integrity/plagiarism.html>

In addition to the above, there are many books on how to write papers and other subjects that contain information about how to avoid plagiarism and other related topics. Students should do their own research and take adequate precautions.