

Academic Misconduct (AM) Penalty System

The Academic Misconduct Penalty System has been created and developed based on the [AMBer Plagiarism Reference Tariff](#) and [Benchmark Plagiarism Tariff](#). The purpose is to create a consistent and equitable application of penalties for **proven** cases of academic misconduct in accordance with the [RVC Student Academic Misconduct Procedures](#).

The AM Penalty System should be used by staff alongside the AM Procedures to help aid the decision-making process. The appointed staff should give additional judgment around mitigating and aggravating factors which cannot be reasonably accounted for in the AM Penalty System.

Should you need further guidance on using the guidance document please contact the [Student Resolution and Compliance Team](#).



Assign points based on the following criteria

HISTORY

1st Time	100 points
2nd Time	150 points
3rd/+ Time	200 points

AMOUNT / EXTENT

Below 5% AND less than two sentences	80 points
As above but with critical aspects* plagiarised	105 points
Between 5% and 20% OR more than two sentences but not more than two paragraphs	105 points
As above but with critical aspects* plagiarised	130 points
Between 20% and 50% OR more than two paragraphs but not more than five paragraphs	130 points
As above but with critical aspects* plagiarised	160 points
Above 50% OR more than five paragraphs	160 points
Submission purchased from essay mill or ghostwriting service †	225 points

* Critical aspects are key ideas central to the assignment

† Some institutions may consider this to be a separate form of academic malpractice

LEVEL / STAGE

Level 1/1 st Year of study	70 points
Level 2/UG (year 2 onwards)	115 points

Level 3/PG Taught	140 points
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VALUE OF ASSIGNMENT

Standard weighting (30 credits and under)	30 points
Large project (30 credits and above)	60 points

ADDITIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

Evidence of deliberate attempt to disguise plagiarism by changing words, sentences, or references to avoid detection **40 points**.

PENALTIES (Formative Work)

280 - 379	Informal warning
380+	A formal warning, with a record made contributing to the student's previous history



Award penalties based on the points

PENALTIES (Summative Work)

In all cases a formal warning is given, and a record made contributing to the student's previous history

Level	Points	Plagiarism available penalties (select one)
Level 0 All	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all cases where it has been decided plagiarism has taken place a formal warning is given. A record of the justified misconduct will be held on the Student Resolution and Compliance records for 6 years after the last action is taken.
In addition, the decision maker may apply <u>one</u> of the following penalties as appropriate		
Level 1	280 -329	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal warning Marks award without taking into account the plagiarised sections.
Level 2	330 - 479	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marks award without taking into account the plagiarised sections. Assignment awarded 0% marks - resubmission permitted but mark capped.
Level 3	480 - 524	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assignment awarded 0% marks - resubmission permitted but mark capped. Referral to an Academic Misconduct Panel

Level 4	525 +	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Module awarded no mark – consequences of failure are initiated.▪ Suspension from the programme of study and requirement to retake, resit and resubmit an assessment or module in whole or part.▪ Withdraw the student with credits retained or removed.▪ Revoke an award from within 6 months of graduation.
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