

## 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	<b>100 points</b>
2nd Time	<b>150 points</b>
3rd/+ Time	<b>200 points</b>

### AMOUNT / EXTENT

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

\* 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 <sup>st</sup> Year of study	<b>70 points</b>
Level 2/UG (year 2 onwards)	<b>115 points</b>
Level 3/PG Taught	<b>140 points</b>

## VALUE OF ASSIGNMENT

Standard weighting (below 30 credits)	<b>30 points</b>
Large project (30 credits and above)	<b>60 points</b>

## PENALTIES (Intent to deceive)

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

**Where intent to deceive is determined, the minimum penalty will be a mark of 0 (Zero).**

## PENALTIES (Formative Work)

<b>280 - 379</b>	Informal warning
<b>380+</b>	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)
<b>Level 0 All</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For all cases where it has been decided plagiarism has taken place, a <b>formal warning</b> is given.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>In addition, the decision maker may apply <u>one</u> of the following penalties as appropriate.</b>		
<b>Level 1</b>	<b>280 -329</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formal warning</li> <li>Marks awarded without taking into account the plagiarised sections.</li> </ul>
<b>Level 2</b>	<b>330 - 479</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marks awarded without taking into account the plagiarised sections.</li> <li>Assignment awarded 0% marks – student enters the Consequences of Failure section under the Assessment and Award Regulations</li> </ul>

<b>Level 3</b>	<b>480 - 524</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assignment awarded 0% marks – student enters the Consequences of Failure section under the Assessment and Award Regulations</li> <li>▪ Referral to an Academic Misconduct Panel</li> </ul>
<b>Level 4</b>	<b>525 +</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Module awarded no mark – consequences of failure are initiated.</li> <li>▪ Suspension from the programme of study and requirement to retake, resit and resubmit an assessment or module in whole or part.</li> <li>▪ Withdraw the student with credits retained or removed.</li> <li>▪ Revoke an award from within 6 months of graduation.</li> </ul>