7.5.1 PLAGIARISM

Last Revised: July 2011

Policy: Piedmont Community College values the principles of personal ethics, integrity, and academic honesty. In accordance with these principles, students are expected charged to produce original work, to cite references correctly, and to abstain from plagiarism.

Purpose/Definitions: Whether intentional or unintentional, plagiarism is defined as “the wrongful act of taking the product of another person’s mind and presenting it as one’s own” (Alexander Lindey, Plagiarism and Originality, 1952).

Intentional plagiarism occurs when a student knowingly does one of the following:

- copies material from a published source to avoid having to devise one’s own ideas;
- fails to give clear and proper credit to an idea, phrase, or quotation taken from a source;
- purchases a pre-written paper; or
- has someone other than the stated author complete an assignment or part of an assignment.

Unintentional plagiarism occurs when a student provides sources for his or her work, but the sources are cited incorrectly or inadequately. Handbooks with documentation rules for the Modern Language Association (MLA) and the American Psychological Association (APA) are housed in the Learning Resources Centers on both campuses. Students are also encouraged to contact their instructors when they are uncertain about documenting their sources for class assignments.

Approval Authority/Monitoring Authority: Piedmont Community College’s Board of Trustees has approval authority for this policy. The Vice President, Instruction and Student Development and the Vice President, Continuing Education have monitoring authority.

Procedure: Plagiarism will result in disciplinary action, and repeated offenses will lead to increased penalties that may ultimately result in suspension from the College.

1. A student who unintentionally plagiarizes will receive a warning and instruction on proper citation, style, and usage for the first offense. A student who unintentionally plagiarizes a second time in the same course will receive a grade of zero for the plagiarized assignment.

2. A student who intentionally plagiarizes will receive a grade of zero for the plagiarized assignment. If a student intentionally plagiarizes a second time in the same course, he/she will receive an “F” for the course.

3. In addition to the above penalties, if a student intentionally plagiarizes, or unintentionally plagiarizes for the second time in the same course, the course instructor will notify the appropriate academic dean and the Dean, Student Development, using the Plagiarism Incident Report Form.
4. If a student receives three course grades of “F” as a result of plagiarism, as determined by academic records kept in Student Development, he or she will be suspended from the College as referenced in Policy 7.5 Code of Student Conduct.

**Legal Citation:** N.C.G. S. 115D-20 (4)

**History:** Effective January 2004, reviewed March 2011