

SOUTHWESTERN

LAW SCHOOL Los Angeles, CA

Policy Statement on Student Academic Work-Product Originality

Administrative policy approved July 22, 2022. Effective immediately.

Revision history: Technical and substantive edits were made in August 2023.

Related policies: Student Honor Code.

Scheduled Review Date: June 2024 (Director of Legal Analysis, Writing, and Skills; Student Services Office)

A. Overview

Students in law school are expected to learn the law, to learn the tools of the practice of law, and to prepare for the demands of the legal profession. Students must establish habits that will carry them forward as professionals. As measures of learning and preparation, a law student's academic work products must be their own.

B. Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the submission or presentation of any work, in any form, that is not a student's own without acknowledgment of the source. A student must not appropriate ideas, facts, or language from the work of another. All student work must be original. Any sources used must be fully cited. Plagiarism is a serious Honor Code violation that may result in expulsion; even lesser punishments may result in career-limiting consequences after graduation.

C. LAWS Collaboration Policy

All LAWS assignments must be "original works of authorship." To clarify, when a work is no longer "original," this policy sets forth specific examples of inappropriate conduct. It is impossible, however, to anticipate and list every possible example of improper conduct. Therefore, the absence of a particular act from this document does not prevent appropriate discipline under the Honor Code.

A violation of this policy may result in an "F" on the affected LAWS assignment and an "F" in the course. Faculty may refer violations of this policy to the Honor Code

Committee as misconduct under Southwestern's Student Honor Code.

This policy does not override or revise in any way the school's plagiarism policy as set forth above and as noted in the Student Honor Code.

1. Collaboration with other LAWS student

Students may discuss thoughts and ideas with other students in the LAWS course. Students may not, however, share their notes (other than class notes), case lists, printouts, charts, drafts, or any other material that contains the students' thoughts on the problem and may not work together beyond general thoughts and ideas except as expressly permitted by the professor. Students may not read written materials out loud to another student counts as impermissible sharing.

Students enrolled in SCALE may not discuss thoughts, ideas, or written information with any student enrolled in the LAWS course in the traditional day program, evening program, PLEAS, or part-time day program. Students enrolled in SCALE may only discuss thoughts and ideas with students currently enrolled in the SCALE LAWS course.

2. Collaboration with anyone other than a LAWS student

Students are encouraged to seek assistance from their LAWS professor and their teaching assistant, the research faculty, and the Writing Center staff. These sources will know how to give students appropriate assistance.

Students may not seek any assistance outside of these sources. For example, a student may not seek assistance from family members, acquaintances, mentors, or tutors, regardless of whether the individual is an attorney. Assistance of any kind is prohibited, including substantive guidance and help with grammar and citation.

3. Use of court briefs prepared by attorneys

A student can review court briefs written on their issue in actual cases. Keep in mind, however, that not all briefs prepared by attorneys are well-written, and the availability of briefs online does not indicate their quality.

Students must never copy or paraphrase another's words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source. Students must never use someone else's idea without citing the source. Using another's words, thoughts, and ideas without proper citation is plagiarism.

4. LAWS Generative AI policy

All submissions in a LAWS I or LAWS II course, whether in draft or final form, including papers, projects, exams, reflections, and oral presentations, must be the student's own work. To avoid plagiarism, when a submission includes or relies on content borrowed from other sources or authorities, the submission must cite the sources appropriately. Each LAWS Professor will instruct students on how to cite sources appropriately for their assignments. Students may use spell-checking and grammar-checking tools on the content created for a submission. However,

students may not use generative artificial intelligence tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Jasper, Lex, GrammarlyGO, or any other chatbot or Generative AI tool) to generate, revise, or edit the content of any assignment unless their LAWS professor gives explicit written permission. If a student is unsure whether they are permitted to use a specific writing tool for an assignment, they should ask their LAWS Professor in advance. A violation of this policy may result in an "F" on the affected LAWS assignment and an "F" in the course. Faculty may refer violations of this policy to the Honor Code Committee as misconduct under Southwestern's Student Honor Code.