

## Report of Graduate Academic Dishonesty 2014-2015 Academic Year

One case of academic dishonesty in an independent study report was brought to the Graduate Dean. In this case, the draft independent study report had not yet been officially submitted to the committee. The advisor determined it would be best to work with the student to address the shortcomings related to proper references and citations for work done by others and no penalty was recommended or imposed.

During the early use of iThenticate on theses and dissertations some specific concerns were found. Two cases of particular concern arose:

- A thesis was discovered with 41% of the document matching other documents. Essentially all of these matches were copied material in a background section of the thesis. The committee determined that the entire section should be removed as it did not contribute directly to the student's contributions.
- A dissertation was found with 15% of the document matching other documents. In addition, images were found that were previously published by others. The Dean and committee required the student to rewrite sections of the work and produce copyright permission forms for all images, tables, and other substantial use of other's work. This delayed the completion of the PhD significantly.

Other findings from iThenticate show the value of the software in protecting the integrity of the students and institution; these cases required minor edits by students to correct minor issues in otherwise well written, cited, and referenced research.

The two concerning situations above have lead to re-examination of the Research Integrity and Academic Honesty policy. Changes to the policy to address such issues being found by the Center for Graduate Studies or by outside parties will be proposed in the near future.