Turnitin is an “originality check” software that you can enable in the D2L Dropbox. Turnitin identifies text in student papers that is from other websites, publications, and other student papers in the Turnitin database to detect possible plagiarism. If you have additional questions, please reach out to April Pierson (piersoa - 36-2392), Avonlea Hanson (hansonav - 36-4141), or Tiffany Lewis (lewistg - 36-2700)

**Always Review the Originality Report**

The % of originality isn’t meaningful on its own - reading the report is essential to identify if plagiarism is actually occurring. For instance, students may have copied the question prompt into their paper, resulting in high similarity within all the papers in the dropbox.

**Turnitin as Student Learning Tool**

Allowing students to view the report is a strategy to help them learn from Turnitin. However, they may not know where to find the report or what it means. Tell the students how to get their results by clicking the colored box next to their originality percentage. It would be best for the instructor to explain how they would interpret the results.

**NOTE:** By default, students do not see their *Originality Report*, so instructors need to enable this in the dropbox.

**FERPA**

The following is example language you could use in your syllabus or D2L regarding the use of Turnitin:

*Student papers in this course may be submitted to Turnitin for text that matches websites, publications, and other student papers in the Turnitin database, potentially indicating plagiarism. Students have the right to remove their names from papers before uploading to Turnitin-enabled D2L dropboxes to protect their privacy. If you have concerns about submitting to the Turnitin repository or have other questions about Turnitin, please contact me. If you would like more information about academic misconduct, please visit the Dean of Students website.*

**NOTE:** Students’ papers will not be shared with other instructors who find a match. Turnitin will report a similarity percentage and facilitate the connection between the two instructors.

**Turnitin Repository**

Some instructors do not want Turnitin to save their student’s papers for a variety of reasons. However, if you reuse the same prompts each semester it will not check current students’ papers against past students’ papers. By default, student papers will be submitted to the Turnitin repository.

**Academic Misconduct**

Do not count on Turnitin to find every case of academic misconduct. Students may have someone else write their papers or the materials may not be in the repository (e.g., a recently published article or website). If you are concerned about academic misconduct, follow the criteria on the *Dean of Students* website.

**Originality Report Generation**

Originality Reports take a while to populate in the dropbox. It could take 5-20 minutes to be able to view a report. If you enable Turnitin after students have submitted to the dropbox, you will need to click to run the originality report for each student.
Enabling and Viewing the Originality Reports

When creating the dropbox, select the checkbox under the name field of the dropbox “Check for text matching materials in the Turnitin database” to enable the tool.

The advanced settings are located at the bottom of the properties tab when creating a new dropbox. These are the default settings available in the dropbox.

To view an Originality Report, click on the colored box next to the percentage to open the report. The Turnitin website will open in a new window or tab.

The top image is a sample of an Originality Report. The student’s paper will be on the left side with any matching text highlighted. The color of the highlighting will correspond with the source on the right side.

Review each match to check for quoted material and common phrases. If the material matches to a website or publication, Turnitin will provide an excerpt of the copied material and a link to the original.

The bottom image appears when Turnitin finds a match to a student within the UW System. This could be from other institutions or UWEC.

learning, time management skills, motivation, and family support. However, Hart found two factors that can be controlled by the instructor: a sense of community and communication with the instructor.

1. The % of originality isn’t meaningful on its own – reading the report is essential to identify if