

## IMPORTANT – ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, TURNITIN, COURSE MATERIALS INFORMATION

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Upon their arrival, all students receive a copy of *The Essential Guide to Academic Integrity at Cornell*; new students receive a hard copy and returning students receive an e-mail with a link to the Guide. The Guide includes the Code of Academic Integrity, Acknowledging the Work of Others, Dealing with Online Sources, and Working Collaboratively. It also includes a list of online resources. You can view the Guide online at: <http://www.cornell.edu/provost/docs/0811-academic-integrity.pdf>.

### TURNITIN TEXT

New this year, the university has signed a license with Turnitin, plagiarism detection software. Turnitin scans student work for matched text, comparing the work to a large database of student work, publications, and materials on the internet. Turnitin is available to faculty to use at their discretion; it will be available via Blackboard, instead of Turnitin's own site, to provide step-by-step instructions for faculty and students and to limit disclosure of some FERPA information.

All students received an e-mail communication about Turnitin. However, instructors who use or anticipate using Turnitin must provide notice to students, substantially to the effect of the following: **“Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.”**

Faculty should include such notice in their syllabus. If use of Turnitin is instituted after distribution of the syllabus, instructors should provide alternative written notice.

Turnitin needs to be used carefully, as a teaching tool not just a detection tool, and in conjunction with a proactive program that emphasizes academic integrity. More details as well as tips and instructions are available at:

<http://www.cit.cornell.edu/services/turnitin/>

### COURSE MATERIALS

Lastly, students are being approached by commercial vendors encouraging them to sell course materials, such as notes and papers. Some of these vendors falsely convey that this behavior is sanctioned by the instructor. At the start of the year, students will receive an e-mail communication informing them of this practice and stating: “Unless you have the express permission of the instructor, you should not buy or sell course materials. Such unauthorized behavior constitutes academic dishonesty.” If you wish to prevent your students from engaging in such behavior, you should include in your syllabus an express prohibition against buying and selling course materials and a copyright notice for your lectures and other course materials.