



PLAGIARISM POLICY

**PEOPLES UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL & HEALTH
SCIENCES FOR WOMEN
SBA**

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PUMHSW Plagiarism Policy

1. Purpose The purpose of this policy is to uphold academic integrity and ethical standards at Peoples University of Medical & Health Sciences for Women by preventing and addressing instances of plagiarism.

2. Scope This policy applies to all members of the PUMHSW community, including students, faculty, researchers, and staff, across all departments and programs.

3. Definition of Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as the presentation of someone else's work, including words, ideas, images, or data, as one's own without proper attribution, regardless of the source and whether intentional or accidental.

4. Forms of Plagiarism

- Direct plagiarism: The verbatim copying of text without attribution.
- Self-plagiarism: The reuse of one's own previously submitted work without acknowledgment or permission.
- Mosaic plagiarism: The borrowing of ideas or phrases from an original source and integrating them into new work without proper citations.
- Accidental plagiarism: Failure to properly cite sources or paraphrase due to lack of awareness or understanding.

5. Specific Provisions for Postgraduate Courses In pursuance of the approval of the Worthy Vice Chancellor, PUMHSW-SBA, by Resolution No. 02, passed in the PGMC Meeting held on 21-03-2016, and the newly revised HEC-GEP 2023 policy adopted in the Academic Council 38th Meeting held on 20-07-2024, the undersigned is to notify the plagiarism policy for various postgraduate courses (M.Phil., M.S., M.D., and Ph.D.), similarity tests, and open defense protocols at this university as per HEC's requirements. These policies are approved with immediate effect.

Prohibition of Plagiarism:

- Under no circumstances are dissertations or theses based on plagiarized research acceptable, across all postgraduate levels including M.Phil., M.D., M.S., and Ph.D.
- Researchers and their supervisors bear the primary responsibility to prevent plagiarism in all research activities.
- Strict adherence to provisions outlined in the documents governing Research Supervision and Research Ethics is crucial to avoid plagiarism.

Conduct of Similarity Test:

- A similarity test, as per the HEC's Anti-Plagiarism Policy, is mandatory for dissertations and theses before submission to external experts across all postgraduate programs including M.Phil., M.D., M.S., and Ph.D.

At PUMHSW, the adherence to the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan's guidelines is a critical part of maintaining academic integrity, with a similarity index of less than 17% being the standard for acceptable academic works. This threshold ensures that the bulk of the content in any submitted academic document is original, and any similarities to previously published work are minimal and adequately cited. Here's how PUMHSW implements this standard:

1. **Plagiarism Detection Software:** The University employs plagiarism detection software (Turnitin software) to scan theses, research papers, and other academic submissions. This software compares the submitted text against a vast database of existing sources to determine how much of the text matches other documents.
2. **Interpreting Similarity Reports:** When a document is scanned, the software generates a similarity report that quantifies the percentage of text that matches existing sources. A similarity index of less than 17% signifies that the document is largely original, with minimal matched text that should be properly cited or paraphrased.
3. **Action on Higher Similarity Scores:** If the similarity index exceeds 17%, further review by the academic committee or instructors is required. The author may need to revise the document to reduce the similarity index by more effective paraphrasing and ensuring proper citation of sources.

Consequences of Plagiarism: If a dissertation or thesis is discovered to be plagiarized at any postgraduate level, it will be addressed following the Anti-Plagiarism Policy issued by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan, subject to updates.

Compliance with COPE Guidelines:

- Plagiarism cases must be handled in accordance with guidelines provided by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) for all postgraduate research.