

DEAR USMNEWS.NET

Dear usmnews.net,

As the school year starts, I have once again been told (through the CoB grapevine) that the “Academic Integrity Policy” is only boilerplate; therefore, no citation is needed. It is my understanding that the Academic Integrity Policy was copied almost verbatim without citation to Syracuse University’s Whitman School of Management’s Academic Integrity Policy. It doesn’t seem right to me. I have been warned not to ask about the CoB’s Academic Integrity Policy. However, I do know that if one of my students copied another document, nearly verbatim, without attribution, I wouldn’t be very happy. What do you think?

Name withheld by request.

Dear Name Withheld,

usmnews.net’s reporters, contributors have published a number of news reports on this topic. Usmnews.net’s editor has published and presented scholarly articles on this matter. We do not consider a document such as the Whitman School’s Academic Integrity Policy to be “boilerplate.” However, the current Academic Integrity Policy posted on the Southern Miss website has been embraced by three separate CoB deans.

In evaluating the “rightness” of copying the Whitman School’s Academic Integrity Policy, you might consider the fact that the Whitman School carefully cited each contributor and source for its Academic Integrity Policy. Also, bear in mind that Southern Miss has historically taken a very different position in the use of citations in administrative documents. Take a look at a [Boilerplate Language? An Investigation of Citation Usage in Administrative Functions.](#)

Marc DePree, Editor