Academic Integrity

http://www.library.illinois.edu/learn/research/academicintegrity.html
http://research.illinois.edu/ai/
http://admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/article1_part4_1-401.html

• Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship.
• Students and faculty alike must obey rules of honest scholarship, which means that all academic work should result from an individual’s own efforts.
• Intellectual contributions from others must be consistently and responsibly acknowledged. Academic work completed in any other way is fraudulent.

Plagiarism

• Plagiarism is using others’ ideas and/or words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information. It may be intentional (e.g., copying or purchasing papers from an online source) or unintentional (e.g., failing to give credit for an author’s ideas that you have paraphrased or summarized in your own words).
• The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research also provides guidelines for University of Illinois students.

Why is plagiarism a problem?

• Plagiarism is dishonest and prevents instructors from being able to assess students’ authentic strengths and weaknesses and thereby help students to improve. It is crippling to your intellectual progress as it interferes with your ability to trust your own thinking, and it constipates future creative thinking. It is also an infraction of academic integrity and could result in expulsion from the university.

Why do some students plagiarize?

• Unintentional plagiarism: Research-based writing in American institutions is filled with rules that beginning writers may not be aware of or don’t know how to follow. Many of these rules have to do with research and proper citation. Sometimes you may not be sure what needs to be cited and what doesn’t.
• Intentional plagiarism: It may seem easy and harmless to copy and paste sections from articles or papers found online to fill an assignment. You should keep in mind, however, that although such behavior may seem harmless, it actually degrades the quality of education that you are receiving and devalues the degree that you are working toward. Plagiarism is also not difficult for a professor to discover through search engines and guides like www.turnitin.com, and may be cause for expulsion from the university.

UIUC resources on academic integrity

• The Graduate College Handbook Chapter XIII: Academic Integrity and Intellectual Property provides guidelines for academic integrity in teaching, research, service, coursework, research and publication, as well as information on intellectual property.
• The Policy & Procedures on Academic Integrity in Research & Publication from the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs articulates official University policy on academic integrity in research and publication and describes procedures for impartial fact-finding and fair adjudication of allegations of academic misconduct.
• The Academic Staff Handbook Chapter 5: Research and Teaching provides guidelines from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign faculty senate related to activities involved in teaching, in acquiring and using data in the course of conducting research, in authoring scholarly publications, and in interacting professionally with other individuals on this campus and elsewhere.

UIUC resources for writers

• If you are not confident with your own writing abilities, there are resources available.
• Ask a Librarian about finding academic sources on your topic of research
• The Writers’ Workshop provides free writing assistance for University of Illinois students, faculty, and staff from all disciplines and at all stages in the writing process.