

Plagiarism, the “scourge” of academia, has garnered increasing attention due to the purported evidence of mounting student purloining of others’ words and ideas prompted by the advent of the Internet, and due to the notoriety attending several infamous cases of plagiarism on the part of students, faculty, and public figures. Regarded as the academic death knell, plagiarism is frequently perceived by those in the public arena and the academy as consistent with criminality and copyright infringement, and these erroneous perceptions have heightened the resistance to, and condemnation of, this ethical wrongdoing. Public colleges and universities must afford students charged with plagiarism Fourteenth Amendment due process consistent with *Dixon* and its progeny; private institutions of higher education are compelled, by virtue of their contractual relationship with students, to provide such students good faith and fair dealing. Yet within these broad constraints, it is evident that significant disparities exist regarding the definition of plagiarism employed, particularly as to whether authorial intent must be considered, and regarding the range and consistency, or lack thereof, of sanctions to be applied. Recommendations are proffered concerning the establishment of college and university plagiarism policies that both afford a calibrated and equitable approach to plagiarism and uphold the tenets of academic integrity.