Academic Standards

2015-16 Committee on Academic Standards Roster
C. James McKnight, Chair  Physiology & Biophysics
Haiyan Gong  Anatomy & Neurobiology
Jori Berger-Greenstein  Psychiatry
Suryaram Gummuluru  Microbiology
Matthew Layne  Biochemistry
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Gwynneth D. Offner  Medicine
Karen Symes  Biochemistry

Assistant Dean for GMS Hee-Young Park (ex officio)
Associate Provost for GMS Linda Hyman (ex officio)

The “Academic Standards” document you sign today is also available online at the GMS web site.

Please read it and familiarize yourself with it!
The most common Academic Standard violation is PLAGIARISM.

In the United States, words, phrases and ideas are property: Intellectual Property.

Intellectual property is protected by law (e.g. copyright laws).

Academia also upholds the highest levels of Intellectual property as it insures that credit is given where credit is due.

Boston University wants you to demonstrate your knowledge in your own words, not someone else's. We want you to demonstrate that you have synthesized material and can express it in your own words.

Note that this is different than some countries where the culture is that student answers are expected to be verbatim from an expert source.

That said, in scientific writing it is essential to give credit to previous studies. This also gives readers the confidence that you have read the literature.
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From the website plagiarism.org:

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ARE CONSIDERED PLAGIARISM:

• turning in someone else's work as your own
• copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
• failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
• giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
• changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
• copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work
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AVOIDING PLAGIARISM:

• Avoid cutting and pasting from the internet.

• Instead, read and then write in your own words.

• But take the citation information from the source and cite it!

• Run your work through turnitin or another similar resource.