CSU uses VeriCite as its anti-plagiarism tool in Canvas. When an instructor creates an assignment in their Canvas course, they can choose to use VeriCite to check their students’ submissions.

New Features Summer 2016:

A VeriCite team visited CSU in June 2016 to get feedback on their product from instructors and TA’s. Based on CSU’s feedback, the follow options have been added to VeriCite:

1. VeriCite searches Open Access Journals.
   - When an Open Access Journal is matched, VeriCite users will be able to see the match compared inline as well as the metadata for the matching article, including abstract url, original source, title, authors, publication, and more.

2. Bibliography now excluded from matching.
   - Based on feedback from instructors, the new behavior will always exclude the bibliography section regardless of the exclude quotes setting.

3. Draft Paper
   - Can Uncheck the “store in Index” option on a VeriCite paper so student papers do not get submitted to CSU’s VeriCite repository of papers. Helpful when you allow students to submit a draft copy of a paper.

4. Exclude self-plagiarism in same Canvas course
   - By default, if a student submits a different version of the same paper in the same Canvas course, that paper is not matched by VeriCite.
   - Instructors now have to option To Included different versions of the same paper in the same Canvas course.

Coming Spring 2017 – VeriCite and SpeedGrader

VeriCite is expected to be integrated so that it can use the Canvas SpeedGrader. We’ll keep the campus up to date on this planned development.
About VeriCite

- VeriCite can consume student in-line submissions and submission files in any file format (e.g. pptx, html, docx, pdf, txt, rtf, ppt, doc, odf, etc.). Formatting and images are removed from the VeriCite version of the paper.
- VeriCite converts the student submission into plain text. Instructors can download copies of a student’s original, formatted paper.
- By default, VeriCite excludes any quoted material from matching. The rest of the text is then compared for exact matches with existing source material. Instructors can choose to include quoted material in the plagiarism check, for all papers or by student.
- We recommend that you have students include their names in the title of the paper they submit. E.g. CamRam-Essay1
- We recommend that you tell your students that you will use VeriCite to check submitted papers.
- A paper that uses VeriCite cannot use SpeedGrader for grading. The paper can be graded in the VeriCite assignment interface. A work around is included at the end of this document. VeriCite is working with Canvas to see if their product can be integrated at a deeper level.

Note: We occasionally see a concern with the Safari web browser and VeriCite. If you encounter a concern uploading a paper into VeriCite, please try a different web browser such as Firefox or Chrome.

Table of Contents:

- New Features Summer 2016: ................................................................. 1
- About VeriCite .................................................................................... 2
- Sources Checked By VeriCite: .......................................................... 2
- How Text Match is Determined ......................................................... 3
- What Is Considered a High Matching Score ....................................... 4
- Create a VeriCite Assignment in Canvas ........................................ 5
- Set TA and Student/Learner VeriCite Permissions ........................... 7
- How a Student Submits a VeriCite Assignment .............................. 9
- Student – View VeriCite Report and Instructor Annotations .......... 11
Sources Checked By VeriCite:

VeriCite scores each sentence in a submitted paper by the matches that are found in:

- VeriCite’s massive index of public resources.
- Microsoft’s Bing search index.
- CSU’s private repository of student papers submitted to VeriCite which is indexed and encrypted.
- VeriCite does not have access to private journals; these sources cannot be checked.
**VeriCite reports** are created on demand every single time **you click on the percentage match score** next to a student’s submission.

Reports are generated immediately but the external search engine results may take a little longer. **So, you may see an initial score and within an hour see a higher, final score.**

Reports are also non-static. If a student submits a paper and gets a plagiarized score of 0, and then another student in another class submits the same paper, then both reports and plagiarism scores will update to 100 to show that they have plagiarized. This dynamic updating can help prevent cases where groups of students or paper mills share the same paper.

**How Text Match is Determined**

A sentence match level is determined by more than just the percentage matched. A smaller sentence that is 100% matched but has common words is less likely plagiarized than a large sentence that is 100% matched with uncommon words. There are also other factors such as contextually aware phrases, sentence uniqueness, and the styling.

Sentences are color coded from low (light color) to high (darker color) match. Similar to other services, the VeriCite score is the number of plagiarized sentences divided by the total number of sentences with small adjustments based on the strength of the matches.

If you plagiarize three sentences out of ten, you should receive between a 28 and a 32 based on the strength of the matches.

**What Is Considered a High Matching Score**

It’s up to you to determine if the paper includes inappropriately used content. Any sentence that is scored as a high match is worth investigating. A paper with several medium match sentences may suggest some paraphrasing or patch writing. Plagiarism can be accidental as well.

**Generally, if the submitted paper is scored above 15% (under “Details” in the report) you should investigate the sources.** You can click on each sentence to find its corresponding match; you can click on matching materials to find the corresponding sentences. You can selectively ignore any matches and the paper will be automatically rescored.
Create a VeriCite Assignment in Canvas

1) On the left course navigation menu click Assignments.

2) At the top of the Assignments page click “ + Assignment”.

3) Type a name for the assignment.

4) Type points for the assignment.
   If appropriate, select an Assignment Group.

5) Under Submission type select External Tool.
6) Under **External Tool Options click Find** - a list of external tools in Canvas will appear.

7) **Click on VeriCite.**

8) **Click Select.**

9) If appropriate, select a Due Date.

10) **Click Save and Publish.**

The assignment, along with its corresponding grade book column, will be created.
Set TA and Student/Learner VeriCite Permissions

An instructor can control what information their TA and students can see in relation to a VeriCite assignment.

1) Under Assignments click on your VeriCite assignment.

2) At the top of the page click on the Setup drop down menu.
3) Here you can check the **VeriCite permissions** that you would like your **learners / students** and your **TA’s** to have.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My Paper Permissions</th>
<th>Learner</th>
<th>Teaching Assistant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>View Own Report</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove Own Report</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit Own Report</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change Own Report Status</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change Own Report Assignment</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change Own Report Title</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Paper Permissions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>View Any User Reports</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See next page for descriptions of each permission.

**>View Own Report**

Allows user to view their report. Without this permission, they will see the report listed but cannot click it to view it.

**>Remove Own Report**

Allows user to delete a report they submitted. When a report is deleted, it's only deleted from that context and will still be used for plagiarism comparison.

**>Change Own Report Status**
Each report has a status flag. This doesn't have any relevance to anything other than a way to organize the submissions. An example workflow: student submits and report status is "submitted". Instructor starts to grade the report but needs more feedback so they set it to "In Review" so they know to come back to it. Instructor finishes grading, so they set the status to "Reviewed". This will allow the instructor to filter out and sort by status, making grading easier.

>Change Own Report Assignment

VeriCite keeps track of all assignments in a course. Since this information is available, a user with this permission can change which assignment the report was submitted to.

>Change Own Report Title

The report title is the name of the report. The name is usually the filename that was submitted. This allows users to modify the title.

---

**How a Student Submits a VeriCite Assignment**

The student will click on the link to the assignment. This link can be found under assignments. The instructor can also place a link to an assignment on a Canvas page or in a Canvas module.

- They can drag and drop their assignment into the VeriCite window.
- If they click on the window, they can browse their computer and select their paper that
Students can also *click on the “copy/paste”* option and *type text* into the window.

At the **bottom of the page** they *click Submit Paper*.

The student will see a confirmation that their paper was submitted. They can view their VeriCite matching report score. *We would recommend that they copy the Confirmation Number for their records.*

If a student navigates away from the page without submitting a paper, they will receive a warning message.

*Example of student VeriCite successful submission.*
Student – View VeriCite Report and Instructor Annotations

If the instructor has chosen to display VeriCite matching reports to students, a student would click on the original assignment to view their VeriCite report and instructor annotation comments.

The student would click on the % match score to view the VeriCite matching report.

Items **highlighted in blue** indicate **annotation comments** the instructor has added to the paper. Items **highlighted in other colors** indicate content that matched other papers turned in at CSU or other online sources. **Darker colors represent higher content match.**

Once graded, the student can see the score for their paper under their Grades link. When the student *clicks* on the **paper under Grades** they can see an instructor’s comments.
View Student Submissions/VeriCite Reports

1) Under Assignments, click on the VeriCite assignment you created.

In the top right notice you can sort/organize the assignment by different criteria.

**NOTE:** If there are a lot of papers, it can take a minute to sort. Please wait for the sort to complete before you click on a student’s paper.
2) Under the **Assignments** tab you will see **students’ submissions and matching Report Score**.

3) You can **click on the score** to see more details about the content matching for **that student’s paper**.

Content that matches another source will be highlighted.

*Click on the highlighted text* to see the source document and the student’s paper on top and the source on the bottom.
Darker colors represent higher content match.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low Match</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>High Match</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Comment:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Excluded:</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Options for VeriCite Papers

On the left menu click Assignments, click on one of the VeriCite papers you created.

Under the Assignments drop down menu select Manage Assignments.

For a VeriCite assignment, at the top under the gear icon, click Edit.

At the bottom of the page note the options available for this assignment.
Exclude (Default) or Include Quoted Material

To reduce the number of false positives, VeriCite automatically removes quotes and bibliographies when finding matching text. This is visually indicated in the report as italicized gray text.

A. Exclude Quotes For All Papers Under the Assignment (Default)
Instructors can now toggle between excluding and including quoted material for each assignment or for an individual student’s report.

*The default setting is to exclude quoted material.*

1) On the VeriCite Assignment page, under the Assignments drop down menu, select Manage Assignments.

2) To the right of the assignment’s name, under the gear icon, select Edit.

3) At the bottom of the page, under Report Options, check or uncheck the Exclude Quotes option.

4) Click Save

B. Exclude Quotes for an Individual Student Paper

1) Click on the score next to a student’s submission.
2) At the top click Details

3) Next to Exclude Quotes click on Yes and select Yes or No.
Exclude Self Plagiarism (On by default)

If a student submits the same or similar paper within the same Canvas course, VeriCite will not look at the student’s previous submissions when performing its content match.

Uncheck if you would like VeriCite to include a student’s previous papers in the course in content matching.

After making your selection, Click Save.

Store in Index – (On by default) Turn Off for Draft

By default, VeriCite stores a copy of a student’s paper in an index / repository of submitted CSU VeriCite papers.

Uncheck this option if you would like a student’s submission to Not be included in this index. Essentially treats the paper as a draft which will not be matched against a student’s future VeriCite submissions or other CSU student submissions.

After making your selection, Click Save.
Grade a VeriCite Assignment

1) *Click* on the **assignment** you created that uses VeriCite.

2) To the right of a **student’s submission** *click* on their **VeriCite score**.

3) At the top *click* **Details**.

4) *Enter* a **score** under **assignment grade**.

5) *Type* any **comments**.

6) *Press Enter/Return* to submit the grade and comments.

The grade will be entered for that student in the grade book.
Add Annotation Comments to Submitted VeriCite Page

When you click on the matching score for a student’s paper, you will see a text version of the paper.

1) Highlight text in the paper and click on the pencil icon.

An annotation window will appear.

You can type a comment.
You can choose to store a comment that you use frequently.

2) Click Save.

Download Copy of Submitted, Formatted Paper / Print VeriCite Report

Instructors can download a copy of the original paper a student submitted.

1) Under the VeriCite assignment, click on the student’s matching score.
2) To the left of a student’s paper are two icons.

*Click on the icon to **download** a copy of the student’s **original formatted paper**.*

*Click on the icon to **print a copy of the VeriCite report** or to save a copy of the report in pdf format.*

**Speed Grader and VeriCite – A Work Around**

Currently, a VeriCite assignment is not integrated with Canvas Speed Grader. We anticipate that this feature will be available for Spring 2017.

If you prefer to have the annotation capabilities of Speed Grader and have a VeriCite report for student papers you can:

Create a regular Canvas assignment for the paper worth x points.
Create a VeriCite assignment for the paper worth 0 points.

You can have students submit their paper to both assignments.
-Grade and annotate the regular assignment paper in Speed Grader
-Check the matching score for the paper under VeriCite.

**Another option** would be to create a regular assignment in Canvas.
After the students submit their papers, download copies of the papers from the Canvas grade book in a .zip file.
Create but do not Publish, a VeriCite assignment.

Click on the Unpublished VeriCite Assignment.

Click Submit Paper.

Submit/Upload the .zip file which contains copies of the student papers into that Unpublished VeriCite assignment.

VeriCite will do its best to match the papers in the submitted .zip file to the appropriate students in the class. It’s a good idea to spot check to make sure the papers are matched to the correct student, especially if you have students who have the same first and last name.

Click Submit Papers.
VeriCite Resources

VeriCite Instructor Support

VeriCite Student Help

VeriCite Update Information
http://updates.vericite.com

CSU Canvas Resources

CSU VeriCite page
http://info.canvas.colostate.edu/vericite.aspx

CSU Canvas Help Web Site:
http://info.canvas.colostate.edu

Canvas Online Help Guides
http://guides.instructure.com/

Canvas Video Guides
http://guides.instructure.com/m/4210

College Canvas Coordinators:
http://help.ramct.colostate.edu/instructor-support.aspx

Central CSU Canvas Support:
canvashelp@colostate.edu