CSU uses VeriCite as its anti-plagiarism tool in Canvas which can also be used as a tool to teach students how to cite sources properly. When an instructor creates an assignment in their Canvas course, they can choose to use VeriCite to check their students’ submissions. We recommend that you tell your students that you will use VeriCite to check submitted papers.

Additional information on how to use VeriCite.

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Note: If you mute a column in the grade book it will hide students’ VeriCite similarity score.
New Features 2016/2017:

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 following options have been added to VeriCite:

1. New User Interface (June 2017)
   A VeriCite report now appears side by side, with the student’s paper on the left and the matching sources on the right. Easier to read, include and exclude matching sources, adjust settings, etc.

2. VeriCite now integrated with Canvas SpeedGrader!
   Instructors can create a regular assignment in Canvas and check a box to use VeriCite for that assignment. Instructors can grade and annotate the paper in SpeedGrader and see a VeriCite matching / similarity score.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.
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; owners of subscription journals do not allow products such as VeriCite to search their papers.

VeriCite reports are created on demand every single time you click on the percentage match score next to a student’s submission.

Reports are 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 Integrated with SpeedGrader

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.
   a. If appropriate, select an Assignment Group.
5) Under **Submission type** select **Online**.

6) For **Online Entry Options** check **File Uploads**. You can restrict the file types. E.g. .doc,.docx,.pdf

7) **Check Enable VeriCite Submissions**.

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**VeriCite Advanced Settings**

Select **when students can see their VeriCite similarity** report for their paper. The default is immediately. 

**Note:** Immediately can mean 5 minutes or an hour or more, depending on the number of papers in our system that need to be checked.

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**Exclude Quoted Material**
By default, VeriCite will not perform matching for items in quotes.

**Excluded Self Plagiarism**
By default, when a student turns in papers in the Same Canvas Course, they are not matched against their other submissions in that course.

**Store submission in Institutional Index**
By default, when a student submits a paper, a copy goes into CSU’s VeriCite index/repository and is compared to other VeriCite submissions at CSU.
If you wanted a VeriCite assignment to be a **draft**, where the student’s submissions are not placed in the index, then Uncheck “Store submissions in institutional index”.

8) **Click Update Settings**

9) If appropriate, *select a Due Date.*

10) **Click Save and Publish.**

The assignment, along with its corresponding grade book column, will be created.
Convert Old External Tool VeriCite Assignment to New Integrated VeriCite

Before December 2016, VeriCite was added to a Canvas assignment using an “external tool” as the submission type. You can change these older types of VeriCite assignment to use the new, integrated with SpeedGrader method.

1) Under Assignments, go to an older “external tool” VeriCite assignment in your course.

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

3) At the bottom left click More Options.

4) Change the Submission Type from External Tool to Online.

5) Check File Uploads and check Enable VeriCite.

   Set due date, availability dates, etc.

6) Click Save.
View an Assignment Submission and VeriCite Score.

1) Under Assignments click on the VeriCite assignment.

2) At the top right click SpeedGrader.

In the left window, the paper will appear in SpeedGrader. The instructor can use Crocodoc to add annotations to the paper.

The process to check for new VeriCite submissions runs every 5 minutes or so.

After about 5 minutes, in the right hand window, the instructor will see a stop watch icon which indicates that VeriCite is checking the paper against other CSU VeriCite papers and sites on the Internet.

When the VeriCite matching process is complete, in the right SpeedGrader window, the instructor will see the similarity score.

Click on the similarity score to open the VeriCite report. The report will open in a separate tab in your web browser.
The student’s paper will appear in the left and matching sources will be on the right.

Until the relatively recent popularity of The Onion and well as humor, verbal irony and news might seem to be reliably mean what they say.

The Onion is an American digital media company and international, national, and local news. Based in Chico

Content that matches another source will be highlighted.

Darker colors represent higher content match. You can click on a color to see all items in the paper that have, for example, a High match.

Matching Sources Icon

- Person – another CSU student’s paper.
- Internet
- Open Access Journal

Click on a sentence to see the content source it matches.

Recent popularity of The Onion and The Daily Dirony and news might seem to be ono. They say Match level High.
On the right side you will see the content source.

Source Text

*Click Source Text* to see, in this case, the web source.

**Exclude Source**

*Check the Exclude Source box* and *click Update* at the top to re-run the similarity report without that source.

To *re-add* an Excluded Source, *place a check next to the source* and at the top *click Update.*
Modify Settings for an Individual Report

At the top of a report, under the Menu, you can modify the Include Quotes and Include Self Plagiarism settings.

Though you can add a comment in VeriCite, to avoid confusion, we recommend that you do all comments and annotations in SpeedGrader.

Matched Another CSU Student Paper

When a paper matches another CSU student’s paper, instructors can see the name of the other student, the class where the paper was submitted and the name of the instructor of the other class.

Click on a matched source associated with another student.

Click on the “x” next to the Source.

Click on the Details button for that Source.
You will see information at the top about the student in your course.

Information at the bottom for the other student’s paper, including the name of the other course, the assignment in the other course and the other course instructor’s name and email address.

This allows instructors to work with one another on a concern where one CSU student’s paper content matches another.
Grade Book VeriCite Indicator

Under the column for a VeriCite assignment in the grade book you will see an indicator for items with a similarity scores.
Red = high matching score  yellow = moderate  green = low

Click on the indicator to open

similarity report.

Adjust Settings for Individual Student Paper

When you are in a similarity report for a student’s paper, under the Details drop down menu you can change the Exclude Quotes or Self Plagiarism settings for this particular paper.

If you make a change, click Refresh to re-run similarity report.
How a Student Submits a VeriCite Assignment

A VeriCite assignment will look like any other assignment in Canvas.

The student clicks on the assignment.

In the top right they click Submit Assignment.

They click Choose File to select the file they wish to upload.

They need to check the box that states they agree to adhere to CSU’s Academic Integrity Policy.

They click Submit Assignment.

The student sees a submission confirmation message.
Student – View Grade and VeriCite Report

The student clicks on the course Grades link.

Next to the assignment name the student can see their grade, instructor comments and the VeriCite similarity score.

The student clicks on the similarity score to view the VeriCite similarity report.

Analyzing 53 sentences and 102 unique phrases...

- External search engine results returned.
- Searching VenCite Internet Database
- Searching Wikipedia Database

Student paper.

Source material from web or other student’s paper.

Colorado State University History
Kevin Student

Colorado State University *(also refer)*

research university located in Fort C

university is the state’s land grant un

Colorado State University System.
The current enrollment is approxim
VeriCite Resources

Creating an assignment:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cybM0AuRBMI

Submitting to an assignment:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcPFSqGTKcc

Viewing/Grading an assignment with similarity reports
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZnWtIO4ryw

VeriCite Instructor Guides:
http://help.vericite.com/m/canvas/c/213588

CSU Canvas Resources

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

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

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

Central CSU Canvas Support:
canvashelp@colostate.edu