Turnitin and student personal privacy

Turnitin is a useful tool for detecting plagiarism and promoting academic integrity. The service provides a Similarity Report that identifies unoriginal or improperly cited text by highlighting similarities in their submitted coursework to documents in Turnitin's database. UBC permits its use as part of the review for authenticity policy (https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,41,626,0). Submissions are stored in the Turnitin database and students retain 100% ownership of the intellectual property rights of their own work.

Instructors may ask students to upload their coursework to Turnitin or upload students' submissions themselves.

There are some important policies and best practices of which instructors need to be aware.

1. The UBC Learning Technology Hub provides essential information for both instructors and students: Turnitin | Teaching with Technology (ubc.ca)

2. As the site states, because of restriction on data housed in the US, submissions should not bear student name and student number. This means there are two ways to manage Turnitin currently.

- Students upload to Turnitin under alias or pseudonym and the instructors needs to know these fictitious names.

- Instructors upload files that have student information removed. Instructors should be transparent that this is being done. Information about its use could be included in the course syllabus, discussed in class, or specified in the information box of the specific assignment.

The good news is UBC plans to integrate Turnitin into our Canvas LMS starting in January 2022 and instructors can receive Turnitin reports on their student directly in Canvas with the identity restrictions are managed by Canvas.

Related Information and Policies:
Office of the University Counsel - Protection of Privacy
(https://universitycounsel.ubc.ca/subject-areas/access-and-privacy-general/useful-resources/)
Learning Technology Hub - Privacy Requirements, Teaching with Technology
(https://lthub.ubc.ca/support/privacy/)
Academic Misconduct Policy
(https://intranet.sauder.ubc.ca/resources/teaching_support/policies)
Academic Honesty and Standards
(https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,286,0,0#15620)
Academic Misconduct (https://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/?tree=3,54,111,959)
V-130 - Content and Distribution of Course Syllabi Senate Policy