

FD not an option in the Valley

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UBCO, college won't follow Simon Fraser in adding low grade

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Simon Fraser University is one of the first to enforce a grade worse than F.

However, it's not for regular mistakes. The newest addition to the grade book, failure with dishonesty, or FD, is reserved for those who have plagiarized or been dishonest.

"We now have to be concerned about cheating during exams with high-tech devices and the inappropriate use of Internet sources and downloading," Dr. Rob Gordon, director of criminology at the school, told CTV.com.

But the idea isn't catching on here. Okanagan College and UBC Okanagan both have strict guidelines around plagiarism, which could result in failing the class, assignment or a swift boot out the door.

Allan Coyle, director of public affairs at Okanagan College, said the plagiarism rules at the school are strict.

"I have heard no discussion of something like that," said Fred Vogt, associate registrar at UBC Okanagan. "Defining what the consequences are usually starts with the instructor who would notice the plagiarism."

It all depends on the severity of the situation at UBC, Vogt said. The student could be required to resubmit the work, receive a grade of zero on the assignment, a penalty on the assignment or receive a grade of zero in the class, but it is not necessarily the same in each case.

If it's a first-year student and it's an early assignment, then there might be some reason to be a little more lenient than later in the year or an upper-level student or graduate student, he said.

"It varies," said Vogt. "We have to allow for some discretion."