In 2010, the Office of Research & Commercialization (ORC) introduced the iThenticate online plagiarism detection software tool for faculty to screen proposals before submission. iThenticate is used by publication companies, the National Science Foundation and other agencies in the review of proposals, manuscripts, and journals. Many UCF investigators have already benefited from the use of this specialized resource for the review of their contract & grant proposals.

Since iThenticate's introduction UCF has experienced several federal research misconduct investigations pertaining to plagiarized proposals. In an effort to promote responsible research practices at UCF, and to protect investigators and the university from further allegations of research misconduct, investigators are now required to screen their proposals through the iThenticate software tool prior to proposal submission. In order to complete this new institutional requirement, investigators must now:

Access iThenticate at http://www.ithenticate.com or via the ORC´s webpage at http://www.rcr.ucf.edu/. Upload the proposal into the iThenticate portal and obtain the Similarity Index detailing matched outcomes with identified sources. Analyze the iThenticate reports results and address problem areas to eliminate potential findings of plagiarism. Save an electronic copy of the iThenticate reports for future reference and records. Enter the date and "Document Title" you uploaded into the iThenticate web portal in the ORC Proposal Transmittal Form (PTF) research misconduct certification section.

Investigator proposals cannot be accessed by iThenticate personnel, and as confirmed by university General Counsel, the iThenticate user license agreement prevents iThenticate from having access to or use of technology, ideas or proprietary data contained in the submitted documents. For additional information about the iThenticate system or for log-in assistance please contact the Office of Compliance staff at 407-823-5173/407-882-0003 or by e-mail at rcr-ucf@ucf.edu.