VeriCite to SimCheck Transition FAQ

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1.   What is SimCheck?

Turnitin SimCheck is a plagiarism detection service that will soon be added to Engage as a replacement for VeriCite. For more information on Turnitin SimCheck, please see our support articles:

- SimCheck for Faculty
- SimCheck for Students

2.   Why are we transitioning from VeriCite to Turnitin SimCheck?

Turnitin has acquired our current plagiarism detection service, VeriCite, and given a VeriCite end-of-life date of December 31, 2020. Turnitin has designed SimCheck as a direct replacement for Vericite, with the same basic functionality and many improvements.

3. I was using VeriCite on my course activities before. Do I need to do anything to enable SimCheck on those activities?

Probably not. VeriCite settings will be automatically applied to the new SimCheck settings for courses within all Master and QA categories, as well as recent and upcoming term categories.

If a course is cloned from a particularly old source course, you should review the SimCheck settings as they may need to be enabled manually.

4. I was not using VeriCite, but I would like to start using SimCheck. How do I enable SimCheck on my course activities?

See our support articles for step-by-step instructions for [enabling SimCheck](#).

5. What are the main differences between VeriCite and SimCheck?

As SimCheck was designed as a direct replacement for VeriCite, the functionality is very similar. Within Engage, the steps to set up and access SimCheck are the same as Vericite. There are a few differences once you open the similarity report.

1. SimCheck provides the percentage of matching text for each source. Vericite indicates match level by color-coding.
2. SimCheck similarity reports are static. VeriCite reports re-run the source comparison every time they are opened.
3. SimCheck similarity reports preserve formatting and images from the original submission. VeriCite reports are text-only.
4. SimCheck does not currently offer a commenting option on similarity reports.

For a visual example, see the following screenshots of the SimCheck and VeriCite report viewers:

SimCheck report viewer:

VeriCite report viewer:

6. I have used Turnitin before. Why does Turnitin SimCheck look different?

Turnitin has been expanding its product line recently. The "classic" Turnitin product is called Turnitin Feedback Studio. If you have used Turnitin in the past, you likely used Feedback Studio. SimCheck is a newer product that is part of the Turnitin Integrity suite of tools.

7. What will happen to past submissions stored by VeriCite?

All student papers saved in the VeriCite submission repository for your institution will be migrated to your new SimCheck submission repository. This means all previously indexed VeriCite submissions will still be part of the SimCheck source comparison going forward.

8. What if I need to access a previous VeriCite report?

VeriCite reports will be available on Engage in a read-only status from 1/1/21 to 1/31/21. To access the older reports, you will need to re-enable VeriCite for the activity.

To re-enable VeriCite:

1. Open the activity and click the **gear icon** to the right of the activity title
2. Click **Edit settings**
3. Scroll to the **VeriCite** heading and click to expand
4. Click **Enable VeriCite Plagiarism Service** checkbox
5. Scroll the bottom of the page, and click **Save and display**

After 2/1, the submission will need to be run through SimCheck to generate a new report.

9. Will I have to change how I grade?

Probably not. The only workflow difference between SimCheck and VeriCite is that SimCheck does not currently have a commenting feature. If you made use of VeriCite comments, consider using the Engage assignment annotator instead. If you did not use VeriCite comments, there will be no changes to your grading workflow.

10. Will students have to change how they submit to activities?

No. The submission workflow is the same between SimCheck and VeriCite.

11. Why do I sometimes see an "awaiting EULA" message next to a submission?

SimCheck will not send submissions to be processed until the "submitter" has accepted the Turnitin end-user license agreement (EULA). Students will be asked to accept the EULA the first time they submit to a SimCheck-enabled activity. Faculty will be asked to accept the EULA the first time they access a SimCheck report. If the submitter has not accepted the EULA, the submission will display an "Awaiting EULA" message instead of a similarity score.

Please note that the "submitter" is defined separately from "author" within SimCheck. In most cases, the student will be both the submitter and the author. There is one exception to this that is unique to the transition: if a faculty member accesses an old VeriCite-enabled activity, SimCheck will attempt to generate new reports using the faculty member as the "submitter". The student will still be listed as the author.