

CODE OF ETHICS

The institution has stated Code of Ethics to create a culture of responsible and quality research with integrity.

Misconduct in Academic Research

Misconduct in academic research implies (and is not limited to) fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or deception in proposing, carrying out or reporting results of research and deliberate, dangerous or negligent deviations from accepted practice in carrying out research. If the research involves biomedical data or clinical information, clearance should be taken from the District Level appellate Committee constituted by the department of Health & Family Welfare for the purpose. It includes failure to follow an agreed protocol if and when this failure results in unreasonable risk or harm to persons, the environment, and when it facilitates misconduct in research by collusion in, or concealment of, such actions by others.

Misconduct also includes any plan or attempt to do any of these things. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretation or judgment in evaluating research methods or results, or misconduct unrelated to research processes.

Misconduct includes (and is not limited to) the following acts:

Plagiarism: The deliberate copying of ideas, text, data or other work (or any combination thereof) without due permission and acknowledgement.

Piracy: The deliberate exploitation of ideas from others without proper acknowledgement
Abuse of Intellectual Property Rights: Failure to observe legal norms regarding copyright and the moral rights of authors.

Abuse of Research Resources: Failure to observe the terms and conditions of institutionally licensed research resources.

Defamation: Failure to observe relevant legal norms governing libel and slander.

Misinterpretation: The deliberate attempt to represent falsely or unfairly the ideas or work of others, whether or not for personal gain or enhancement.

Impersonation: The situation where someone other than the person who has submitted any academic work has prepared (parts of) the work.

Fabrication and Fraud: The falsification or invention of qualifications, data, information or citations in any formal academic exercise.

Sabotage: Acting to prevent others from completing their work. This includes stealing or cutting pages out of library books or otherwise damaging them; or wilfully disrupting the experiments of others; or endangering institutional access to licensed research resources by wilfully failing to observe their terms and conditions.

Professional misconduct: Professorial acts those are arbitrary, biased or exploitative.

Denying access to information or material: To deny others access arbitrarily to scholarly resources or to deliberately and groundlessly impede their progress.

Misconduct in formal examinations: Includes having access, or attempting to gain access during an examination, to any books, memoranda, notes, unauthorized electronic devices or any other material, except such as may have been supplied by the invigilator or authorized by the Academic Department. It also includes aiding or attempting to aid another candidate or obtaining or attempting to obtain aid from another candidate or any other communication and conversations that could have an impact on the examination results.

Two levels of violations of good academic practice can be distinguished.

1. Minor Violations:

Minor violations may occur because of inexperience or lack of knowledge of the principles of academic integrity and are often characterized by the absence of dishonest intent on the part of the person committing the violation.

They may result from:

- a. Weak procedures and methods which may jeopardize the integrity of the research but are not undertaken deliberately or recklessly
- b. Weaknesses which present no major risks to either subjects or policies which they may influence

On the whole, these minor violations can be seen as failings which may reflect only poor, rather than unacceptable practices and therefore mainly require further training and development rather than any formal disciplinary action.

2. Major Violations:

Major violations are breaches of academic integrity that are more serious in nature or that affect a more significant aspect or portion of the academic work compared with minor violations.

Key examples are:

- a. Deliberate, reckless or grossly negligent conduct which would clearly pose a significant risk in one form or another to the integrity of the research.
- b. Conduct that may pose risks to subjects, the wider community, the environment, or to the research reputation of the institution and research in general.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism represents unethical scientific behavior which is never acceptable. Proper acknowledgement of the work of other used in a research work must always be given. Further, it is the obligatory on part of each author to provide prompt corrections or errors in published work.

Sanctions: Sanctions, as recommended by the Ethics Committee and as decided by the Disciplinary and/or Disciplinary Appeals Committee, may include (but are not limited to):

1. Resubmission of an assignment or academic work.

2. A failing grade for the examination or specific assigned exercise; or a failing grade for the course as a whole, depending on the importance of the work to the overall course grade.
3. A letter of reprimand, issued by the chair of the Disciplinary Committee, which may or may not be recorded on the scholar's file.
4. Suspension from the programme.
5. Suspension of grant/contract.
6. Revocation of a degree or certificate.

Any sanctions, or decisions not to resort to them, are without prejudice to the academic assessment of a researcher's paper by the Department in question, and to the decisions by the Entrance Board.