



BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY: ***Research Misconduct***

SECTION I. SCOPE.

This policy governs research misconduct at the University of Minnesota (University).

SECTION II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES.

The University has a responsibility to foster a research environment that promotes the responsible conduct of research and research training, and does not tolerate research misconduct.

Research integrity is a core value of the University. It is, therefore, a fundamental responsibility of the faculty, staff, students, and administration of the University to maintain the trust of the public in all research activities. It is the shared responsibility of all members of the University community to ensure that misconduct in research is dealt with in a timely and effective manner, and that the reputation of the University for high standards of research integrity is preserved.

SECTION III. DEFINITIONS.

Subd. 1. Fabrication.

Fabrication shall mean making up data or results and recording or reporting them.

Subd. 2. Falsification.

Falsification shall mean manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.

Subd. 3. Intentionally.

Intentionally shall mean to act with the aim of carrying out the act.

Subd. 4. Knowingly.

Knowingly shall mean to act with awareness of the act.

Subd. 5. Plagiarism.

Plagiarism shall mean the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words, without giving appropriate credit.

Subd. 6. Preponderance of the Evidence.

Preponderance of the evidence shall mean proof by evidence that, compared with evidence opposing it, leads to the conclusion that the fact at issue is more likely true than not.

Subd. 7. Recklessly.

Recklessly shall mean to propose, perform, or review research, or report the results of research, with indifference to a known risk of fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism.

Subd. 8. Researcher.

Researcher shall mean any:

- (a) individual employed by the University, as defined by Board of Regents Policy: *Employee Group Definitions*, with responsibility for the design, performance, or reporting of University research;
- (b) student when working on federally sponsored University research or acting as an agent of the University to perform University research; and
- (c) other individual with a role in the design, performance, or reporting of University research or acting as an agent of the University to perform University research.

Subd. 9. Research Misconduct.

Research misconduct shall mean the fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting the results of research. Research misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion.

SECTION IV. IMPLEMENTATION.

Subd. 1. Application.

This policy and related administrative policies and procedures shall apply to all researchers as defined in Section III, Subd. 8 of this policy.

Subd. 2. Expectations.

The University expects research integrity from its researchers at all times and in all circumstances. Researchers may not engage in actions that constitute research misconduct.

Subd. 3. Commitment.

The University shall deal promptly with allegations or evidence of possible research misconduct and shall carry out this responsibility fully to resolve questions regarding the integrity of the research activity.

Subd. 4. Requirements for a Finding of Research Misconduct.

A finding of research misconduct requires that:

- there be a significant departure from accepted practices of the relevant research community;
- the misconduct be committed intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly; and
- the allegation be proven by a preponderance of the evidence.

Subd. 5. Compliance with Federal Regulations.

Where allegations of research misconduct arise related to federally sponsored research, the University shall adhere to all applicable sponsor requirements as set forth in individual agency regulations.

Subd. 6. Detrimental Research Practices.

Allegations of misconduct that threaten the real or perceived integrity of the research or the researchers, but that fall outside of the definition of research misconduct, as defined by Section III, Subd. 9 of this policy, will be reviewed as potential detrimental research practices. Review of detrimental research practices may be handled within the context of a research misconduct review or pursuant to other relevant University policies and procedures.

Subd. 7. Academic, Scholarly, or Creative Work.

Allegations of misconduct related to academic, scholarly, or creative work that fall outside of the definition of research misconduct, as defined by Section III, Subd. 9 of this policy, are governed by Board of Regents Policy: *Code of Conduct* and applicable employment policies, including Board of Regents Policy: *Faculty Tenure*.

Subd. 8. Students.

Scholastic dishonesty by a student is a violation of Board of Regents Policy: *Student Conduct Code* and is governed by that policy and related administrative policies and procedures. As required by federal regulations, in cases where a student is accused of research misconduct while working on federally sponsored University research or acting as an agent of the University to perform University research, this policy and the related administrative policies and procedures shall determine whether research misconduct occurred.

SECTION V. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY.

The president or delegate shall administer this policy and is authorized to adopt and amend administrative policies and procedures to ensure its implementation.

REVISION HISTORY

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