

University of the Philippines Manila Code for Responsible Conduct of Research

Preamble

Research is a mandate of the University of the Philippines, the National University, and is integral to its vision and mission of national relevance and global competitiveness. Its value and benefit are vitally dependent on the integrity of the entire research process (beginning from inception of ideas to research methodology to output and dissemination) and the trust it generates among both the academic institution and the lay community which it serves. The Philippine and the international community expect research from the University to always be conducted responsibly, ethically and with integrity.

While it is recognized that there are disciplinary and sectoral differences within the University in research organization and procedures; while the primary responsibility of research integrity lies on the individual researcher and institutions; while research includes multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary dimensions, there are universal principles and responsibilities for both researcher and institution that are fundamental to the integrity of research.

This Code enumerates these basic principles and responsibilities and provides a guide for the creation and maintenance of (1) an ethical research culture and (2) a framework for the responsible conduct of research; both of which are necessary foundations for quality research, credibility and trust in the research process. Furthermore, the spirit of the Code is a reflection of the moral leadership of the University of the Philippines and of its time-honored values of honor and excellence.

The code embodies core behaviors of responsible and ethical research across all disciplines. It does not include specific rules and regulations on the conduct of research—these are available in University and Institution Guides. Compliance with this Code is a requirement for all University research.

Principles

These are the fundamental principles of research integrity; they are the hallmark of a responsible conduct of research which guide researchers in their work (from proposal, development to conduct and reporting of research) as well as in their approach to the different challenges inherent to research.

- Honesty
 - o all information and data are always presented truthfully and accurately from presentation of idea and proposal to eventual publication and dissemination of results
- Rigor

- the research process is underlined by attention to detail, a robust methodology and the avoidance of but the acknowledgement of bias when it is present
- Transparency
 - Researchers and everyone involved in the research process should remain transparent in reporting research methodology, data and findings; and in disclosing and managing conflicts of interest. Sharing research methodology, data and findings should be done openly, responsibly and accurately.
- Professional courtesy and fairness
 - This is practiced consistently in the treatment of fellow researchers, most especially in recognizing the work of co-researchers, giving due recognition (citations) and appropriate credit to contributors, including authorship when warranted
- Respect
 - for colleagues, research participants, wider community, animals, environment, cultural heritage
 - making sure to keep adverse effects on the environment to a minimum
- Recognition of the rights of ethnic and religious minorities to be engaged in research that is of significance to them
- Accountability
 - All researchers must be accountable throughout the research process, from idea to publication and dissemination, for management and organization, for training, supervision and mentoring
 - All research activities must be in compliance with relevant legislation, policies and guidelines
 - Consequences and outcomes of research must be considered prior to their dissemination
- Good research stewardship and management
 - This includes the judicious use of public resources including funds and research grants
- Promotion of responsible research culture
 - This is a collaborative effort of both institution and researcher achieved through both the conduct of research and the training, supervision and mentoring of students and research mentees

Responsibilities

Both institutions and researchers have responsibilities that must be carried out consistently and conscientiously in order to achieve and maintain a culture of “responsible conduct of research”.

The institution must be able to

- create an environment conducive to research integrity
 - establish an Office of Research Integrity or similar office in the constituent unit (CU)
 - provide appropriate guides and policies readily available in the CU
 - provide adequate and safe facilities to store and archive data and reports
 - pursue honor and excellence in all its undertakings
- provide training to research staff and personnel
 - conduct regular training of officers and staff of Offices of Research Integrity
 - conduct regular updates for all faculty and REPS (research and extension professional staff)
- implement appropriate monitoring and response to allegations of research misconduct
 - institute a monitoring and evaluation plan
 - regularly collect information needed to implement monitoring and evaluation
- assure transparent, just and fair decisions
- adopt the principles of a learning organization
 - share regular updates with stakeholders on the status of implementing policies on Research Integrity
 - conduct research responsive to the agenda of research integrity
 - participate in international collaborative efforts

The researchers, on the other hand, must

- undertake the entire research process appropriately and responsibly, from conception of the research idea to its final publication and dissemination, maintaining the principles as stated in the previous section
- support the responsible conduct of research, in both their own and their colleagues’ research activities
- promote education and activities in responsible research practice and research integrity for themselves, for peer and for staff and mentees
- report observed misconduct in research through appropriate channels

Breaches or violations of Research Integrity

Violations of research integrity, including their definition, categorization and sanctions, will be the subject of a set of policies and guidelines to be issued by the Committee on Research Integrity. The details of investigation and corresponding sanctions are left to the Unit, Institution or College where specific procedures must be in place to handle allegations of research

misconduct. All allegations must be promptly and carefully reviewed. The Committee will defer to applicable and existing governing mechanisms over staff misconduct, which will be assessed and meted out by offices handling Human Resource-related matters; applying rules from, for example the Civil Service Commission, UP Manila Employee Manual, or Residency Training Manuals. These cases will ultimately be forwarded to the Committee for oversight.

It is envisioned that with the cumulative experience, collection and study of cases pertaining to research integrity, the Committee can transition into an Office of Research Integrity which will continue to pursue the dual roles of education and oversight in order to maintain a culture of “responsible conduct of research.”

References:

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