

2.E - Core Component 2.E

The institution's policies and procedures call for responsible acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge by its faculty, students and staff.

1. The institution provides effective oversight and support services to ensure the integrity of research and scholarly practice conducted by its faculty, staff, and students.
2. Students are offered guidance in the ethical use of information resources.
3. The institution has and enforces policies on academic honesty and integrity.

Argument

University policies and procedures call for responsible acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge by faculty, students, and staff.

The Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) is charged with research development, training, administration, and compliance; with fostering the intellectual pursuits of faculty and students; and with brokering collaboration among disciplines to advance integrative research.

Research Integrity

The OVPR is responsible for research ethics and safety, including training, policies, procedures, and regulatory compliance policies and procedures required of institutions classified as [R1, Doctoral University: Highest Research Activity](#). The Vice President for Research delegates these activities to the [Office of Research Integrity](#) (ORI).

WSU contracts with the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) for required and supplementary research training. CITI is a leading provider of research education content worldwide. The relationship with CITI ensures that research training will be of high quality and remain current. Examples of required training: [human research](#), [animal research](#), [laboratory safety](#), and [responsible conduct of research](#).

WSU encourages external activities that enhance the university's mission and presence in local, national, or international communities. To protect the public trust and promote objectivity in research, university policies ensure there is no reasonable expectation that employees will be biased by competing financial interests. As presented in Section 2.A., university policies on [Individual and Institutional Financial Conflict of Interest \(FCOI\) and Commitment](#) and [Investigator Disclosure](#) require faculty and staff to identify, disclose, and manage real or potential COI. The ORI utilizes a [FCOI questionnaire](#) to assist investigators in identifying potential conflicts that must be disclosed. Disclosures are reviewed by the [FCOI Committee](#), which develops a [conflict management plan](#).

University Policy 2010-01 ([Research Misconduct](#)) documents institutional compliance with federal law and regulations for the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR), including processes for investigation of research misconduct allegations. RCR training required by the [National](#)

[Science Foundation](#) (NSF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) is provided by CITI. RCR training is also required for all masters and doctoral students enrolled in thesis-oriented programs. In addition, faculty and students involved in research or supervision of research are required to maintain certification.

An example of WSU compliance with RCR is the [2015 report](#) of a WSU investigation of alleged research misconduct. While WSU respects such work products as highly confidential, this report was released in response to a Freedom of Information Request filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and was subsequently published online, where comments were posted. Among reactions to the report:

“The detailed report of the WSU investigation into [name deleted] is just incredible! How could this overt culture of research fraud go on for so long and acquire (sic) so many publications and EXTENSIVE research funding??? I am just floored! The investigation by WSU into this matter was thorough, diligent and very professional – I now understand why this took so long to come out.”

The ORI has oversight for WSU’s [Human Research Protection Program](#), including institutional policy and the [Institutional Review Board](#) (IRB); and maintains [institutional accreditation](#) by the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs.

In conjunction with the Division of Laboratory Animal Research (DLAR), ORI coordinates the [Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee](#) and maintains [institutional accreditation](#) by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Care International. DLAR maintains animal care facilities under the direction of a full-time veterinarian, and assists researchers in meeting regulatory compliance standards through direct consultation and training.

The ORI Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) oversees training and laboratory safety for the use of hazardous agents and hazardous materials management; controlled substances; and audits of scientific laboratories and facilities to ensure compliance with environmental health and safety laws, rules, and regulations.

Sponsored Program Administration (SPA) within the Division of Research, oversees grant and contract accounting and financial reporting to ensure compliance with federal sponsors, grant/contract requirements, and federal regulations. To ensure the integrity of grants and contracts, SPA maintains online resources, including policies and procedures for proposal development, contract administration, award management, and compliance with the OMB *Uniform Guidance*.

Ethical Use of Information Resources

- [University Policy 00-1](#) guides students, faculty, and staff on the acceptable use of computer systems, networks, and other university information technology resources.
- The [C&IT website](#) aggregates a comprehensive series of current and historical university policies and standards; a separate C&IT webpage not only offers education on landmark U.S. copyright laws and acts, but also presents consequences of violations.

- The Dean of Students Office sends an [annual email](#) to all students, not only to reinforce the importance of compliance with laws governing copyright and peer-to-peer file sharing, but also to document student notification. Schools and colleges also offer student guidance; for example, the School of Library and Information Science website publishes an Acceptable Use Policy for student server access and use.

Academic Honesty and Integrity

Consistent with the the [AAUP Statement on Professional Ethics](#), the [Preamble](#) to the WSU-AAUP-AFT Collective Bargaining Agreement states:

"The intents and purposes of this Agreement are to improve the quality and effectiveness of education at Wayne State University by promoting the highest standards of academic excellence in all phases of instruction and professional service at the University..."

Faculty honesty and integrity are embedded into institutional policy on multiple levels; examples cited in this section alone include policies on [individual and institutional financial conflict of interest and commitment](#) and [research misconduct](#),

Faculty and students have a shared interest in academic honesty and integrity, as conveyed in [Obligations of Faculty and Student to the Instruction Process at Wayne State University](#) (approved by the University Council on Oct. 6, 1982 and included in the [Bulletin](#)). The opening statement reads:

"Since education is a cooperative effort between teacher and student, both parties must fulfill obligations if the integrity and efficacy of the instructional process are to be preserved."

All students are expected to uphold standards for academic integrity; that is, to know, respect, and practice personal honesty as members of a learning. [WSUCA Statute 2.31.01](#) articulates the following student responsibilities:

- Each student has the responsibility to support academic integrity.
- Each student, as a member of society, has the responsibility to conduct himself/herself in accordance with generally accepted standards of conduct as embodied in society's laws and regulations.
- Each student, as a member of the University community, has the responsibility to conduct himself/herself in a manner which sustains in all areas of University life the atmosphere necessary for the broad educational purposes of the University community.
- Each student has the responsibility to respect innovation and individual differences and to conduct himself/herself so as not to violate the rights of other students and members of the administration and faculty.

Administered by the Dean of Students Office, the [Student Code of Conduct](#) defines the scope of academic misbehavior and establishes all such behaviors as prohibited conduct. Due process procedures are documented in the code, and [summarized in this flowchart](#).

Most faculty address academic integrity in course syllabi and review it with students at the beginning of each semester. For example, [this syllabus from CED 7070](#) not only includes a prominent academic integrity section and a strong, “zero tolerance” message; it also references and links to all university policies.

Faculty are also encouraged to use plagiarism prevention tools such as Blackboard’s SafeAssign, or Respondus LockDown Browser.

Sources

- AAAHRP - Letter of Accreditation - 2016_09_23
- AAALAC - Letter of Accreditation - 2015_03_19
- AAUP - Statement on Professional Ethics
- Academic Misbehavior Flowchart - Student Code of Conduct - Dean of Students Office
- C&IT Guidance - Ethical Use of Information Resources
- Carnegie Basic Institutional Classification - 2015
- Collective Bargaining Agreement - WSU and AAUP-AFT, Local 6075
- Education CED 7070 Syllabus
- Example Research Training - Animal Research
- Example Research Training - Hazardous Substances
- Example Research Training - Human Research
- Example Research Training - Responsible Conduct of Research
- FCOI Questionnaire
- Financial Conflict of Interest Committee - Conflict Management Process
- Financial Conflict of Interest Committee - Research Integrity - Wayne State University
- Important Information Regarding Illegal File Sharing and Downloading
- National Science Foundation - Responsible Conduct of Research - Required Training

- Obligations of Faculty and Student to the Instruction Process at WSU - 1982
- Office of Research Integrity - Website Homepage
- Research Integrity - Human Research Protection Program - March 2015
- Research Integrity - Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Membership
- Research Integrity - Institutional Review Board Membership
- Research Integrity - Report on Investigation - Alleged Research Misconduct
- Research Policy - Individual and Institutional Financial Conflict of Interest and Commitment
- Student Code of Conduct - 2005_11_30
- University Policy 00-1 - Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources
- University Policy 08-2 - Investigator Disclosure (Second Release)
- University Policy 2010-01 - Research Misconduct
- WSUCA Statute 2.31.01 - Student Rights and Responsibilities