

# **DYOUNVILLE**

## **UNIVERSITY**

### **Research Misconduct: Policy on Allegations, Investigations, and Reporting**

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## **Introduction**

D'Youville University is committed to the highest research integrity and ethical conduct standards. This policy outlines the procedures for addressing allegations of research misconduct by faculty, staff, or students engaged in research activities under the University's auspices. Research misconduct undermines the research enterprise and the University's reputation. The IRB Committee will investigate all allegations thoroughly, fairly, and promptly.

## Definitions

- **Research Misconduct:** Fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or other practices that seriously deviate from those that are commonly accepted within the scientific community for proposing, conducting, evaluating, or reporting research.
  - **Fabrication:** Making up data or results and recording them in research records.
  - **Falsification:** manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes or changing or omitting data or results so that the research record does not accurately represent what was done.
  - **Plagiarism:** Appropriating another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.
  - **Other Practices:** This may include, but is not limited to, negligent data handling, failure to disclose conflicts of interest, ghost authorship, or retaliation against whistleblowers.
- **Allegation:** A written or verbal statement alleging research misconduct has occurred.
- **Investigation:** An official inquiry to determine whether an allegation of research misconduct has merit.

## What Research Misconduct Does Not Include

- **Honest Error:** Research misconduct does not include unintentional mistakes or errors in judgment. However, researchers must conduct their research due diligence and report mistakes promptly.
- **Honest Differences in Interpretations or Judgments of Data:** Researchers' disagreements about the interpretation of data or the significance of findings are not considered misconduct. Open discussion and debate are essential parts of the scientific process.

## **Individual Reporting Responsibility**

All members of the D'Youville University community, including faculty, staff, and students, are responsible for reporting suspected research misconduct. This responsibility is based on the importance of maintaining research integrity and fostering a culture of trust within the academic community. Reports can be made anonymously or confidentially via [irbhelp@dyc.edu](mailto:irbhelp@dyc.edu)

## **Procedure for IRB Review**

- All reports of research misconduct will be submitted to the Director of Institutional Review Board (IRB).
- The IRB Director will conduct a preliminary review of the allegation to determine if it falls within the scope of this policy and warrants further investigation.
- If the IRB Director deems the allegation serious enough to investigate, they will appoint the Research Integrity Committee (RIC) and designate a Research Integrity Officer (RIO) to oversee the investigation.

## **Internal Coordination/Reports to the Dean of Research**

- The RIO will work closely with the Director of the Center for Doctoral Studies and Research (CDSR) to ensure a smooth and comprehensive investigation.
- The CDSR Director will be kept informed of the progress of the investigation and will be responsible for coordinating any necessary actions within the specific research unit or department involved.

## **Notification to External Entities**

- Depending on the nature of the alleged misconduct and the funding source(s) involved, the University may be required to notify external entities such as the Office of Research Integrity of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- In consultation with the IRB Director and legal counsel, the RIO will determine the appropriate course of action for external notification.

## **Determination of Discipline**

- If the investigation finds research misconduct, the RIC will recommend appropriate disciplinary actions.
- The severity of the sanctions will depend on the nature and seriousness of the misconduct.
- Potential sanctions may include, but are not limited to:
  - Retraction of publications
  - Correction of the research record
  - Loss of research funding
  - Termination of employment or expulsion from the University
  - Public notification of the misconduct

## **Cautions and Assistance**

- This policy is not intended to discourage responsible research practices.
- The University encourages open communication and provides resources to assist researchers in navigating ethical questions and best practices.
- Resources may include workshops on research ethics, data management training, and access to research integrity specialists.

## **Confidentiality**

The University will make every effort to protect the confidentiality of all parties involved in the investigation to the greatest possible extent, consistent with the legal requirements of the investigation.

## **Training**

The University will provide research ethics and misconduct training to all faculty, staff, and students engaged in research activities.

## **Retaliation**

The University prohibits retaliation against any person who reports or cooperates with an investigation of research misconduct.

## **Reporting Requirements**

The University must report all findings of research misconduct to the relevant funding agencies and oversight bodies.

## **Revisions**

This policy will be reviewed and updated periodically.

## **Contact Information**

- IRB Director: Henry Boateng, Ph.D.

Email address: [irbhelp@dyc.edu](mailto:irbhelp@dyc.edu)

## **Additional Resources**

- Office of Research Integrity (ORI): <https://ori.hhs.gov/>