

Research Ethics Policy

Strive for Excellence with Research

Departments and researchers at the College shall strive to enhance the reputation of the College and themselves through research work that shall match or surpass the world standards of quality in their fields and disciplines. Research at the College shall be at the forefront of innovation and shall contribute significantly to nation-building, national progress, socio-economic development and societal upliftment.

Upholding Beneficence and Non-maleficence during Research

Research at the College will be dedicated to the generation and propagation of new knowledge that will raise the quality of life and help to build a just, peaceful, stable and progressive India. The Departments and its researchers will ensure that no harm is done to the community that they serve and work with. They will be on alert against the misuse of their work in any context. They will uphold the dignity, protect the rights, guarantee the safety and preserve the wellbeing of all involved in or affected by the conduct of research.

Honesty and Transparency in Research

The conduct of research at the College is founded on strong commitment to honesty and transparency. The College, its Departments and researchers shall ensure that all their actions and activities are free from deceit and fraud, and shall inspire trust and confidence.

Integrity and Professional conduct of the Researcher

The Departments and researchers shall demonstrate a fundamental soundness of moral character. They shall strive to preserve the good reputation of the College and the high esteem of the public by honoring all obligations, agreements and commitments.

Cooperation and Collaboration among Researchers

In the pursuit of new knowledge, Departments and researchers shall allow the open exchange of ideas, methods, data, and analysis by working and acting collaboratively in the spirit of pluralism and inclusiveness. Opportunities for discussion and debate shall be initiated as ways of fostering excellence. The College administration shall support this thrust by providing avenues and mechanisms for its implementation.

Accountability of Researchers

The College, the Departments and researchers serve the general public and are thus obliged to report, explain, and justify all their actions and activities whenever necessary. They shall behave responsibly and comply with all terms, conditions, policies, agreements, and requirements applicable to their work.

Growth and Development of Researchers

The attitude towards research at the College shall be one of enabling, empowering, and endowing. The College and its Departments shall encourage and sustain the conduct of research and ensure excellence by providing training, opportunities for development and resources for researchers. Researchers and Departments shall impart knowledge and skills to other researchers in a cycle of mentorship that perpetuates the quality of research in the College. Researchers shall enhance their qualifications through continuous education and training to acquire new skills and capabilities. Various mechanisms within the College shall facilitate this process.

Ethical Standards in Research at the College

The research activities at the College shall be guided by the principles of excellence, beneficence and non-maleficence, truth, integrity, professionalism, cooperation, accountability, zeal and growth. The general standards for the ethical conduct of research in all its various aspects and elaborations of these general standards is provided below;

Collaborative Research

Researchers shall engage in research projects within the range of their competencies and collaborate with others to complement and / or synergise their expertise. In collaborative research, researchers not only shall take responsibility for the quality and integrity of their own contribution to the research project, but shall also ensure the same standards from their collaborators. All collaborative research projects shall have a documented Memorandum of Understanding, specifying the terms and scope of collaboration, duly signed by all collaborators.

Dissemination of Research Information, Publication and Authorship

In fulfilling their responsibility to all stakeholders and the community at large, researchers shall make timely reports of their research findings in an open, non-selective and unbiased manner. They shall report the research activities as they were actually carried out, and describe accurately and in adequate detail the research methods used to help ensure repeatability and replicability of the research findings. Researchers shall refer to relevant findings of other researchers, to the best of their knowledge, in their reviews and duly

acknowledge them when these works are used or referred to in research analysis. Authorship shall be granted to all those who have made an intellectual contribution that is substantial enough for him / her to take public responsibility in the conception, design, analysis and drafting of the research report. Under the principle of accountability, all authors must give their final approval of the report before it is submitted for publication or presentation. In research work, carried out as a part of curricular activity or as a part of dissertation or for doctoral degree, primary authorship will remain with the guiding teacher or the mentor unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by the guiding teacher and the student researcher.

Avoidance of Plagiarism

Researchers shall not report the work of others in a manner that could misrepresent it as their own work. The researchers shall ensure that they do not reproduce verbatim copies of reports or any part of reports published by other researchers as part of their own research without due acknowledgement of the reference. The researchers shall take adequate care to ensure that their research reports, knowingly or unknowingly, are not copies of reports published earlier by other workers. The College shall take serious note of any lapses on the part of the researcher in this regard. The College shall provide for adequate support to researchers enabling them to identify plagiarism in research reports before the reports are made public.

Management of Research Data

Researchers shall maintain confidential data securely and do not use such data for the personal advantage or for advantage of any party. Under the principle of truth, of beneficence and of cooperation, researchers shall retain their research data for an appropriate period of time (minimum of 180 days from the publication of the research report) which would allow other researchers / referees to verify their results, if needed. The researchers shall try their best to bring their research findings into public domain by appropriate timely publication(s) for the furtherance of the research process.

Peer Review of the Research Work

Peer review is a process of review of research work by other researchers to nurture a culture of collegiality, uphold the principle of excellence and avoid plagiarism. Researchers who are part of Peer reviews shall do the reviews under the principle of honesty and transparency. Peer reviewers shall not derive unfair competitive advantage from their knowledge of other researcher's yet unpublished ideas or research plans during the

reviewing process. Researchers who are part of any peer review process shall be obliged to perform their task thoroughly and submit their reviews in a timely manner so as to enable other research workers, whose work they review, to benefit from the honest assessment.

Guidance to Support of Research

The Management and administration of the College shall provide for and ensure smooth conduct of research. To the best of possible means available, the College shall provide facilities in terms of infrastructure and logistics to the researchers. The general standards and guidance policies for the support of research, at the College, is provided below;

Seed money for initial funding at the formative stages of Research project

The College will make arrangements from its internal financial sources, for providing seed money as initial financial support at the formative stage of research projects. The seed money shall be made available to the faculty / research student / alumni of the College to conduct preliminary work for formulation of research proposals for funding. The seed money shall be provided to research projects after peer review by an expert panel appointed by the College and the final decision will be made solely by the Principal of the College.