

Rule 15.99.03.S1 Research Misconduct

Approved November 4, 2025
Next Scheduled Review: November 4, 2030



Rule Summary

The credibility of research conducted by The Texas A&M University System (system) depends on the appropriate design, conduct, documentation, communication, and dissemination of research outcomes. This rule addresses pertinent components of research misconduct proceedings, in addition to the System Regulation *15.99.03, Research Misconduct*, for research or testing conducted by System Offices staff. It applies to both non-sponsored and sponsored research activities, regardless of the funding source.

Rule

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 This rule is specific to research and testing conducted by individuals on behalf of the System Offices, but not system members.
 - (a) Research misconduct allegations made against System Offices staff performing research or testing activities as part of their employment will follow this rule.
 - (b) Research misconduct allegations made against individuals conducting research on behalf of the System, but who are system member employees (faculty or staff), may be handled by the member(s), according to their rule(s), based on consultation and agreement with the system Chief Research Compliance Officer (CRCO).
 - (c) Research misconduct allegations made against system member students conducting research on behalf of the system will be handled in consultation with the student's member institution and in agreement with the system CRCO.
 - (d) Research misconduct allegations made against an individual not associated with the system but conducting research on-site at any system-owned location as part of a contracted project, will not be handled by the system and will be referred to the sponsor's appropriate compliance contact.

2. DUTIES OF THE RESEARCH INTEGRITY OFFICER (RIO), DECIDING OFFICIAL (DO), AND INSTITUTIONAL CERTIFYING OFFICIAL (ICO)

- 2.1 The Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR) serves as the DO for system-conducted research and testing.
- 2.2 The system CRCO serves as the RIO for system-conducted research and testing and may appoint a Deputy RIO as needed.
- 2.3 The system CRCO serves as the ICO.

3. INQUIRIES OF ALLEGATIONS OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

- 3.1 Inquiry committee members may be appointed by the RIO, and committees may be constituted with individuals from system members who have applicable expertise and experience.
- (a) The RIO may appoint new members to the inquiry committee if existing committee members leave their member institutions during the course of the inquiry.

4. INVESTIGATIONS OF ALLEGATIONS OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

- 4.1 The investigation committee members may be appointed by the RIO, and committees may be constituted with individuals from system members who have applicable expertise and experience.
- (a) The RIO may appoint new members to the inquiry committee if existing committee members leave their member institutions during the course of the inquiry.
- (b) Members of the inquiry committee are eligible to serve on the investigation committee.

5. DECISIONS ON ALLEGATIONS OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT BY THE DO

- 5.1 The system DO may recommend discontinuing relationships, among other corrective actions, with member faculty, staff, or students found to have conducted research misconduct. Additional corrective actions impacting employment or student enrollment will be made by the relevant system member(s).

6. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Authorship disputes are not handled through research misconduct proceedings. They are decided by the Vice Chancellor for Research, or designees, along with the relevant member Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) or Provosts, or system member designees when involving member faculty or students.
- 6.2 Research data is to be handled according to research and testing agreements, along with standard industry practice. The system may not own or have access to some data as per the relevant agreements.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

[42 CFR, Part 93](#)

[45 CFR, Part 689](#)

[Federal Research Misconduct Policy \(OSTP\)](#)

[System Policy 15.99.03, Research Misconduct](#)

Contact Office

Research
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