

ASU System Policy

Effective Date: May 4, 2012

Subject: Misconduct in Research

1. Purpose

In recent years, well-publicized cases of misconduct in university research, including fabrication of results, plagiarism, and misrepresentation of findings have aroused concern among research institutions, individual investigators, sponsors of research, professional societies, and the general public. Although verified instances of such dishonest behavior are relatively rare, they raise serious questions about the integrity of the research process and the stewardship of public and private research funds. Institutions of higher education, in particular, enjoy a centuries-old tradition of integrity and objectivity, and cases of dishonesty in research by members of the university community must be dealt with carefully and thoroughly if the institution is to merit continued public confidence and trust.

Certain federal agencies have issued directives requiring awarding institutions to establish procedures for inquiry into, and investigation of, alleged or apparent misconduct in scientific research conducted, funded, or regulated by these agencies. Misconduct in research outside scientific field is equally serious. Accordingly, the following policy is established to apply to all instances of alleged or apparent misconduct in research conducted at any campus of the Arkansas State University System.

The policy applies to all research conducted by faculty, staff members, or students of Arkansas State University System.

2. Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, the following definitions will be employed:

Misconduct. Misconduct will be defined in accordance with the definition required or provided by the agency funding the research. In the event that the funding agency does not require or provide a definition of misconduct, or in the event that the research is not funded by an agency, misconduct is defined as: (1) fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or other serious deviation from accepted practices in proposing, conducting, or reporting the results of research; (2)

material failure to comply with university or sponsoring agency requirements affecting the conduct of research; or (3) failure to meet other material legal requirements governing research activities.

Inquiry. An inquiry is an informal review of an allegation of misconduct in research for the purpose of determining whether there is reasonable cause to believe that a university employee or student has engaged in such misconduct.

Investigation. An investigation is an in-depth review of an allegation of misconduct in research for the purpose of determining whether or not a university employee or student has engaged in such misconduct.

3. Arkansas State University System Misconduct in Research Policy

The Arkansas State University System will act vigorously to discourage and detect misconduct in research; will take appropriate disciplinary action against any of its employees or students who engage in such misconduct, as revealed by a careful investigation; and will inform and cooperate with those agencies sponsoring research that appear likely to have been affected by such misconduct.

Any individual who believes that he or she has knowledge of an act of misconduct in research by an Arkansas State University employee or student is responsible for communicating this information to the coordinator of organized research for that campus or the Office of the Chancellor. The coordinator of organized research for that campus, or the Chancellor's designee, shall conduct an inquiry and, if warranted, an investigation into the allegation in accordance with that campus's operating procedure. Each campus within the ASU System shall create, utilize, and enforce an operating procedure for inquiry into and investigation of allegations of research misconduct.

(Revised May 4, 2012, Resolution 12-12. Adopted by the Arkansas State University Board of Trustees on June 23, 2009, Resolution 09-26, supercedes the Misconduct in Research Policy of October 11, 1990, and revisions of December 16, 1992.)