

# COMPLAINANT FAQS

\*Research Misconduct Evaluation Process - Phases

Assessment

Inquiry

Investigation

Provost

## WHAT IS RESEARCH MISCONDUCT?

Research misconduct **IS** fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or other practices that seriously deviate from ethical standards for proposing, conducting, or reporting research.

Research misconduct **IS NOT** ordinary errors, good faith differences in interpretations or judgements of data, scholarly or political disagreements, good faith personal or professional opinions, or private moral or ethical behavior or views.

HOP 7-1230, Section I(D)

## WHAT ARE MY RIGHTS DURING THE RESEARCH MISCONDUCT PROCESS?

As the complainant in a research misconduct case, you are entitled to:

- Present evidence in support of the allegations you bring forth to the RIO
- Be interviewed as part of the inquiry and investigation (if warranted)
- Review portions of the investigation report pertaining to your testimony
- Be informed of the results of the inquiry or investigation
- Report real or apparent concerns involving retaliation to the RIO

HOP 7-1230, Section II(C)

## IS THE RESEARCH MISCONDUCT PROCESS CONFIDENTIAL?

Confidentiality is a necessary and critical component of the research misconduct process. During a pending inquiry and investigation, the RIO will keep case participants and evidentiary materials confidential to the extent possible. Pursuant to university policy, certain university officials will be notified and periodically updated regarding the case, including:

- The accused person's dean and department chair (or immediate supervisor)
- The provost
- The vice president for research (VPR) and vice president for legal affairs (VPLA)
- University attorneys
- The director of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI) (only if a student is involved)

HOP 7-1230, Section II(E)(1)

\*To learn more about how the university handles allegations of research misconduct, please consult its [policy](#).

# COMPLAINANT FAQs (2)

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## HOW LONG DOES THE RESEARCH MISCONDUCT PROCESS TAKE?

Normally, the inquiry will be completed within sixty (60) days. If the inquiry progresses to an investigation, the investigation will be completed within one hundred twenty (120) days. Any extension of this period requires the approval of the VPR and the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) (when the research is federally funded).

HOP 7-1230, Section II(E)(4); Section II(G)

## SHOULD I HIRE A LAWYER?

While you can decide to employ outside counsel at any time during the research misconduct process, please be aware of the following:

- Outside counsel will be employed at your own expense
- Outside counsel may accompany you to any RIO related meetings as a silent observer

HOP 7-1230, Section II(D)(3)

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