

RESPONDENT 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 respondent in a research misconduct case, you are entitled to:

- Be informed of the allegations when an inquiry is opened
- Be interviewed as part of the inquiry
- Submit a written objection to any appointed member of the investigative committee based upon bias or conflict of interest
- Present evidence to the investigative committee
- Review the draft inquiry and investigation report and provide written comments
- Be informed of the results of the inquiry or investigation
- Report real or apparent concerns involving retaliation to the RIO
- Receive university assistance in restoring your reputation if found not to have engaged in misconduct

HOP 7-1230, Section II(D)

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:

- Your college'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) (when a student is involved)

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

RESPONDENT FAQs (2)

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)

IF THERE IS A FINDING OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT, IS THERE AN APPEALS PROCESS?

No, the provost's decision represents the university's final determination regarding the research misconduct case.

HOP 7-1230, Section II(I)

IF THERE IS A FINDING OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT, WHAT SANCTIONS CAN BE IMPOSED?

The sanctions imposed on the respondent when there is a finding of research misconduct will depend on the circumstances of each case. At minimum, the provost will determine whether to notify any of the following parties of the university's finding:

- Law enforcement agencies (if criminal activity is uncovered)
- Professional societies and licensing boards
- Journal editors (to correct or retract the research record)
- Collaborators of implicated projects or publications
- Other relevant parties (e.g. funding or sponsoring agencies)

HOP 7-1230, Section II(I)

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