



Policy on: Allegations of Research Misconduct

Purpose:

To promote academic practices that prevent research misconduct (as defined below) and to ensure that Winona State University (WSU) complies with federal regulations in terms of ethical research and dealing with allegations of research misconduct.

Policy:

This policy establishes the requirements and associated procedures to carry out WSU's responsibilities on allegations of research misconduct, in compliance with federal regulations and acceptable work practices. The policy and associated procedures shall apply to all research activities conducted under the auspices of WSU, whether the activities are or are not externally funded.

Misconduct in research undermines the academic enterprise and erodes the public trust in WSU to conduct research and communicate results using the highest standards and ethical practices. All members of the community – students, staff, faculty, and administrators – share responsibility for developing and maintaining standards to ensure ethical conduct of research and the detection and appropriate handling of abuse of these standards. This responsibility must be assumed while sustaining the openness and creativity vital to the research enterprise.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs will have primary responsibility for the implementing and carrying out the policy and procedure on allegations of research misconduct.

President's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Responsible Officer's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Definitions:

Allegation means any written or oral statement or other indication of possible research misconduct made to an institutional official.

Research misconduct is fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing or performing research, reviewing research proposals, or in reporting research results.

- *Fabrication* is making up data or results and recording or reporting them.
- *Falsification* is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.

- *Plagiarism* is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results or words without giving appropriate credit.
- Research Misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion.

A finding of research misconduct requires that:

- There be a significant departure from accepted practices of the relevant research community;
- The misconduct be committed intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly; and
- The allegation be proven by a preponderance of the evidence.

Subsequent Procedures:

Related Documents

- a. WSU Procedure 3.27.A Procedure on Allegations of Research Misconduct
- b. Minnesota State System Procedure 1C.0.1 Employee Code of Conduct

Policy History

Date of Adoption: Click or tap to enter a date.

Date of Implementation: Click or tap to enter a date.

Date and Subject of Revisions:

WSU Regulation 3-22, dated October 1995; October 6, 2000; November 7, 2000; October 1, 2002

WSU Regulation 3-27; dated April 26, 2010