



# RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

## WHAT IS RESEARCH MISCONDUCT?

Research Misconduct means fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. Research misconduct does not include honest errors, differences of opinion or authorship disputes.

- ▲ **FABRICATION** – The making up of data or results and the recording or reporting thereof.
- ▲ **FALSIFICATION** – The manipulation of research materials, equipment or processes, or the change or omission of data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.
- ▲ **PLAGIARISM** – The appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results or words without giving appropriate credit.

## HOW DO I REPORT RESEARCH MISCONDUCT?

If you suspect someone is involved in research misconduct, you can report it:

- ▲ **Via phone** to the Division of Research Compliance at 352-294-1632 or to the UF Compliance Hotline at 877-556-5356
- ▲ **Via e-mail** to the Division of Research Compliance at [compliance@research.ufl.edu](mailto:compliance@research.ufl.edu)
- ▲ **Via the online form** at <https://www.reportlineweb.com/Welcome.aspx?Client=UF>
- ▲ **In person** at the Division of Research Compliance – 460 Grinter Hall

## WHAT IS THE PROCESS AFTER I REPORT AN ALLEGATION?

There are three stages that could occur after an allegation is reported.

- ▲ **PRE-INQUIRY REVIEW** – This is the initial review of the allegation to determine whether an inquiry is warranted. An inquiry is warranted if the allegation falls within the definition of research misconduct and is sufficiently credible and specific so that potential evidence of research misconduct may be identified.
- ▲ **INQUIRY** – This is an initial review of the evidence to determine whether an investigation is warranted. An investigation is warranted if there is a reasonable basis for concluding that an allegation falls within the definition of research misconduct, and preliminary information-gathering and preliminary fact-finding indicates that the allegation may have substance.
- ▲ **INVESTIGATION** – This is the formal review of the allegation to determine whether research misconduct has occurred. It is done by members of an ad hoc investigation committee who have sufficient expertise in the subject matter under investigation.

## WILL THERE BE ANY REPERCUSSIONS TO ME IF I REPORT RESEARCH MISCONDUCT?

- ▲ To protect those reporting a potential research misconduct violation, university policy prohibits retaliation against persons who, acting in good faith, provide information concerning alleged misconduct.
- ▲ Confidentiality is maintained throughout the inquiry or investigation of the alleged research misconduct to the greatest extent possible and consistent with federal and state laws. However, under Florida law, information pertaining to a misconduct case can become publicly available (upon request) at the end of the investigation.

## WHAT IS THE UNIVERSITY POLICY FOR RESEARCH MISCONDUCT?

See <http://regulations.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/10101.pdf>