

## POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Name	<b>Integrity in Research and Scholarship</b>		
Policy #	<b>I.03</b>	Category	<b>Research</b>
Approving Jurisdiction	<b>Board of Governors</b>	Replaces	<b>2018-07-01</b>
Administrative Responsibility	<b>VP, Research</b>	Version	<b>2025-07-01</b>
		Next Review Date	<b>TBD</b>

See the related **PROCEDURES** (link to be added when posted)

### PURPOSE

The purposes of this policy are to:

1. Foster a culture of applied research excellence at the College.
2. Create an environment that supports best research practices at Aurora College by meeting the requirements set out in the *Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research* (current edition);
3. Outline the responsibilities and standards required of Aurora College staff<sup>1</sup>, students, and affiliates who are engaged in research at the college and as outside activities; and
4. Provide a process to address allegations of misconduct in research.

### SCOPE AND LIMITS

This policy applies to all Aurora College staff, students, and affiliates who engage in research.

### POLICY STATEMENT

Aurora College commits to:

1. Maintaining the highest possible standards of honesty, fairness, trust, accountability, and openness in the conduct of all research done by Aurora College staff, students, and affiliates;

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<sup>1</sup> Staff includes instructional and non-instructional staff, as per the *Aurora College Act*.

2. Clearly communicating the responsibilities and standards that all Aurora College staff, students, and affiliates who are engaged in research are required to meet; and
3. Following fair and effective procedures to deal promptly and confidentially with alleged misconduct in research.

### **Guiding Principles**

1. Research is a critical function of post-secondary institutions.
2. Aurora College recognizes the necessity and importance of maintaining the highest possible standards in the administration and financial management of all research activities.
3. Skills building for research and scholarship is important to the life of the College, and we will aspire to do both.

### **DEFINITIONS**

**Artificial Intelligence:** Computer-based systems that, by processing large amounts of data and learning from it, can perform specific tasks that would generally require human-like intelligence (e.g. spell checking).

**Generative Artificial Intelligence (genAI):** A subfield of artificial intelligence (AI) that creates models and systems that can solve problems, analyze data, and generate new content. This encompasses any software or platform that automates the creation or alteration of academic materials, such as essays, reports, homework, and project work.

**Misconduct in research:** Any action or activity that occurs during the conduct of research that is unethical, dishonest, or unfair. Misconduct in research includes, but is not limited to:

- *Breach of policies or requirements for conducting research:* failing to comply with relevant policies or requirements applicable to certain types of research, such as research involving human participants or animals.
- *Destruction of research data or records:* the destruction of one's own or another's research data or records or in contravention of the applicable funding agreement, institutional policy and/or laws, regulations and professional or disciplinary standards.
- *Fabrication:* making up data, source material, methodologies, or findings, including graphs and images.

- *Falsification*: manipulating, changing, or omitting data, source material, methodologies or findings, including graphs and images, without appropriate acknowledgement, such that the research record is not accurately represented.
- *Inadequate acknowledgement*: failure to appropriately recognize contributors, including students and community-based participants; failure to state if and how generative AI has been used during the conduct of research.
- *Invalid authorship*: inaccurate attribution of authorship, including attribution of authorship to persons other than those who have made a substantial contribution to, and who accept responsibility for, the contents of a publication or document.
- *Mismanagement of conflict of interest*: failure to appropriately identify, disclose, and address any real, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest in accordance with Aurora College policy F.04 Conflict of Interest.
- *Mismanagement of grant or award funds*: use of grant or award funds for purposes inconsistent with policies of Aurora College or the sponsor; contravening financial policies; or providing misleading, inaccurate, or false information on expenditure and related documentation.
- *Misrepresentation in a grant application or related document*: providing incomplete, inaccurate, or false information in a grant application or award document; applying for or holding research funding when deemed ineligible for reasons of breach of research-related policies such as ethics or financial management; listing co-applicants, collaborators, or partners without their agreement.
- *Plagiarism*: presenting and using another's published or unpublished work, including theories, concepts, data, source material, methodologies, or findings, including graphs and images, as one's own, without appropriate referencing and/or, if required, without permission.
- *Redundant publication or self-plagiarism*: the re-publication of one's own previously published work or part thereof, including data, in any language, without adequate acknowledgement of the source, or without justification.

Misconduct in research also includes the destruction of data, records, or evidence in order to hide any of the above activities. It does not include honest errors or differences in research methodologies, interpretations, or conclusions.

**Non-compliance:** Failure to follow: applicable guidelines and regulations governing research on human participants or animal subjects; the research protocol that was approved by the

Research Ethics Committee (REC) or Animal Care Committee (ACC); or, the stipulations imposed by the REC or ACC as a condition of approval.

**Research:** An undertaking intended to extend or create knowledge through a disciplined inquiry or systematic investigation.

Note: Studies carried out to assess, manage, improve, or develop programs or services for Aurora College are not considered research; non-research includes quality assurance and improvement studies, program evaluation studies, usability studies, and organizational effectiveness studies.

**Scholarship:** Any activity, including research, that advances the knowledge of a scholar.

**Sponsor:** The entity or organization that has a funding relationship with Aurora College, and that provides funding to conduct a research project.

## **RELATED POLICIES / PROCEDURES / DOCUMENTS**

### **Policies:**

- A.02 Aurora College Code of Ethics
- B.18 Copyright Policy
- F.04 Conflict of Interest Policy
- I.02 Research Administration Policy
- I.04 Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Human Participants Policy
- I.05 Care of Animals in Teaching and Research Policy
- I.06 Intellectual Property Policy
- I.07 Research Associate Program Policy
- I.10 Research Data Management Policy

### **Procedures:**

- I.03.1 Integrity in Research Procedure

### **Related Documents:**

- Outside Activity Requests – Internal Process
- Outside Activity/Employment Request for Approval form

Canadian Council on Animal Care Policies and Guidelines

The Agencies. Guidance on the use of Artificial Intelligence in the development and review of research grant proposals

Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research (current edition)

Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans TCPS 2 (current edition)

Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration (current edition)

#### **APPLICABLE LEGISLATION**

Scientists Act RSNWT 1988, c S-4.

Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act SNWT 1994, c 20.

#### **DOCUMENT HISTORY**

Date	Update
2013-06-11	New policy. Policy and Program Committee Motion #PP05-2013 Board of Governors motion #BG13-2013 Implemented July 1, 2013
2018-06-08	Policy revised. Approved by Public Administrator Ref.#Admin-25-2018 Implemented July 1, 2018
2025-06-26	Policy revised. Board of Governors Motion #BG04-June-2025 Implemented July 1, 2025