



Acharya Institute of Management and Sciences

Code of Ethics

9. AIMS INSTITUTES - CODE OF ETHICS

AIMS Institutes is committed to promote and maintain high standard academic research by faculty, research scholars and students. We guarantee a free academic research environment which upholds the values of freedom, equality and respect for diversity. Research activities of the college should always aim for the highest standards of excellence, integrity and morality. We are keen to inculcate a culture of honesty, accountability and transparency, while maintaining academic freedom. Academic integrity is essential for the success of the Institute and its research missions, and hence, violations of academic integrity constitutes a serious offence.

All the research activities in the college should follow the highest professional standards in research design, procedure and evaluation. Ethics frameworks set out by Government and professional regulatory agencies should be strictly followed. Academic research community should keep required levels of confidentiality in disclosure of methodology and major findings. All researchers share the responsibility for promoting academic integrity of the college. Legal issues related to copyright, patent and publication are the sole responsibility of the researchers.

All departments are encouraged to conduct interdisciplinary research activities which facilitate mutual co-operation and free exchange of ideas. Any Research Project or Proposal needs to be approved by the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of the Institute. Any ethical problems related to supervisory relationships will be resolved by the institutional Research Review Committee (RRC).

i) Violations of this policy include, but are not limited to Plagiarism: means the use of material, ideas, figures, code or data as one's own, without appropriately acknowledging the original source. This may involve submission of material, verbatim or paraphrased, that is authored by another person or published earlier by oneself. Examples of plagiarism include:

(a) Reproducing, in whole or part, text/sentences from a report, book, thesis, publication or the internet.

(b) Reproducing one's own previously published data, illustrations, figures, images, or someone else's data, etc.

(c) Taking material from class-notes or incorporating material from the internet graphs, drawings, photographs, diagrams, tables, spreadsheets, computer programs, or other non-textual material from other sources into one's class reports, presentations, manuscripts, research papers or thesis without proper attribution.

(d) Self plagiarism which constitutes copying verbatim from one's own earlier published work in a journal or conference proceedings without appropriate citations.

e) Submitting a purchased or downloaded term paper or other materials to satisfy a course requirement.

f) Paraphrasing or changing an author's words or style without citation.

(ii) Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Copying during examinations, and copying of homework assignments, term papers, theses or manuscripts.

(b) Allowing or facilitating copying, or writing a report or taking examination for someone else.

(c) Using unauthorized material, copying, collaborating when not authorized, and purchasing or borrowing papers or material from various sources.

(d) Fabricating (making up) or falsifying (manipulating) data and reporting them in thesis and publications.

(e) Creating sources, or citations that do not exist

(f) Altering previously evaluated and re-submitting the work for re-evaluation

(g) Signing another student's name on an assignment, report, research paper, thesis or attendance sheet

(iii) Conflict of Interest:

A clash of personal or private interests with professional activities can lead to a potential conflict of interest, in diverse activities such as teaching, research, publication, working on committees, research funding and consultancy. It is necessary to protect actual professional independence, objectivity and commitment, and also to avoid an appearance of any impropriety arising from conflicts of interest.

Conflict of interest is not restricted to personal financial gain; it extends to a large gamut of professional academic activities including peer reviewing, serving on various committees, which may, for example, oversee funding or give recognition, as well as influencing public policy.

To promote transparency and enhance credibility, potential conflicts of interests must be disclosed in writing to appropriate authorities, so that a considered decision can be made on a case-by-case basis. Some additional information is available also in the section below dealing with resources.

(iv) Penalties for Plagiarism

Penalties for plagiarism can be severe depending on the nature of offences. If a staff/student is charged with academic misconduct for plagiarism / cheating, he/she will have to attend a hearing to defend or explain his/her actions followed by suitable action, if any.