



## ETHICAL GUIDELINES IN ACADEMIC/RESEARCH ENDEAVOURS

NPR college of Engineering and Technology (NPRCET) is committed to fostering and upholding the utmost standards of honesty and accountability in the pursuit of academic research, while also preserving the principles of righteousness and transparency throughout all academic and research endeavours on campus.

NPRCET requires its faculty, research students (PhD, M.E, and B.E/B.Tech) as well as technicians, to strictly adhere to the highest standards of truthfulness when engaging in academic research or overseeing the maintenance of academic research activities.

This document outlines guidelines for promoting sound academic and research practices at NPRCET. It also defines academic and research misconduct, highlighting the role of the Ethics Committee in safeguarding research integrity and preventing instances of academic misconduct.

### Ethical Research Standards

The bedrock of any academic institution lies in the steadfast commitment to honesty and accountability in conducting academic research. Deviating from accepted academic research guidelines not only inflicts severe harm on the entire academic and research community at NPRCET but also undermines the institution's credibility and authority.

To safeguard academic integrity, members of the academic and research community, including faculty, staff, research scholars, and technicians, must exemplify qualities such as honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, legality, transparency, and dissemination.

- ❖ **Honesty:** Upholding intellectual and personal honesty in teaching, learning, performing, and reporting research.
- ❖ **Trust:** Fostering mutual trust and respect to encourage the sharing of knowledge, research ideas, and data/results among the academic and research community and collaborators.
- ❖ **Fairness:** Ensuring fairness in crediting scientific contributions, acknowledging individuals for their intellectual input, and maintaining fairness in institutional standards and practices.
- ❖ **Respect:** Cultivating a culture of respect among faculty, staff, and students, encompassing respect for scholarship and research, educational activities and materials, laboratory belongings, and intellectual property rights.



By adhering to these principles, the academic/research community at NPRCET contributes to a foundation of integrity, ensuring the institution's continued reputation for excellence and credibility in academic and research pursuits.

- ❖ **Ethical Conduct:** Promoting high standards of behavior in learning, teaching, and research through collaborative academic responsibility among researchers.
- ❖ **Legality Appreciation:** Recognizing legal norms in the conduct and publication of research results, including considerations of copyright and intellectual property rights, authorship, inventorship, and ownership.
- ❖ **Communication Excellence:** Disseminating research outcomes to the scientific community is a crucial responsibility. Strong encouragement is given to publishing research results in Scopus and SCI indexed journals. It is emphasized that publishing in "predatory journals" is unacceptable, as these journals often lack proper peer review and prioritize financial gain over academic quality.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ETHICS COMMITTEE AT NPRCET:**

### **1. Advisory and Oversight:**

Advising, guiding, and overseeing the NPRCET academic/research community in matters and disputes related to the conduct of academic and research, ensuring adherence to ethical standards.

### **2. Code of Ethics Development:**

Assisting the Academic Council in formulating and updating the 'Code of Ethics in Academic/Research Practice' at NPRCET, establishing a framework for ethical conduct

### **3. Ethical Guidance and Support:**

Providing guidance and support to faculty, research scholars, and students concerning ethical considerations in teaching, research, and academic activities.

### **4. Investigation on Authorship Issues:**

Conducting investigations into instances of pressuring subordinates for authorship in scientific contributions and inclusion of names in project proposals as Principal and co-investigator

### **5. Publication Ethics Guidance:**

Guiding faculty, research scholars, and students in the ethical publication of research outcomes, assisting in distinguishing legitimate journals from predatory ones.



## 6. Research Ethics and Misconduct Investigations:

Investigating and counseling issues related to research ethics and addressing instances of research misconduct.

## 7. Protection of Whistle-blowers:

Safeguarding whistle-blowers against retaliatory actions by individuals involved in research or academic misconduct, ensuring a protected environment for reporting concerns.

## 8. Disciplinary Actions:

Recommending and, if necessary, imposing disciplinary actions for scientific misconduct following a thorough investigation, maintaining the integrity and credibility of academic and research practices at NPRCET.

### Research Misconduct

It involves actions such as fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or dishonesty in proposing, conducting, or presenting scientific results in academic research. Additionally, academic/research misconduct encompasses both intentional and inattentive deviations from recognized research practices, particularly when these actions pose risks to individuals, the environment, or the overall system. It extends to instances where academic/research misconduct enables collusion or secrecy by others. It's important to note that misconduct does not include unintentional/genuine errors or genuine differences in interpreting and evaluating research methodology and results, nor does it encompass misconduct unrelated to the conduct of the research.

Misconduct encompasses, but is not confined to, the following actions:

- **Plagiarism:** Deliberate replication of a manuscript, data, results, images, figures, or ideas from others' work, including reproducing one's own work without proper consent, known as "self plagiarism." The use of ideas, words, or text from others or one's own publications should adhere to the limitations set by the research committee.
- **Piracy:** Intentional misuse of ideas from fellow researchers without appropriate acknowledgment.
- **Abuse of Intellectual Property Rights:** Failure to adhere to rules governing copyright and intellectual property rights.
- **Abuse of Research Resources:** Failure to comply with regulations regarding licensed research resources available at the institution.



- **Misrepresentation:** Deliberate attempts to unethically or falsely represent the ideas or work of other researchers.
- **Personation:** Stealing and submitting others' research as one's own.
- **Fabrication and Fraud:** Actions such as data fabrication, falsification of experimental data, deliberate reporting of data without proper replication, and reporting data with misleading interpretations.
- **Sabotage:** Interference with others' work, including preventing the use of instruments, stealing/hiding laboratory notebooks, damaging others' records, and will fully disrupting experiments.
- **Misconduct by Faculty:** Acts by faculty members, such as not giving due credit in authorship or acknowledgment, and providing undue credit to those who have not significantly contributed, like "honorary authorship" or inventorship/ownership in patents.
- **Denying Access to Information or Material:** Indiscriminately denying access to academic/research resources or intentionally hindering the progress of researchers/students/colleagues.
- **Discrimination:** Deliberate favoritism towards a specific group of people, including biases related to religion, caste, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and gender.
- **Harassment**

Harassment involves sexual misconduct perpetrated by faculty, research scholars, or students towards individuals of the opposite gender. This may encompass the use of abusive language, frequent insults, threats, and the exploitation of vulnerable individuals, such as women in general by men, juniors by seniors, or students by faculty.

Penalties recommended by the Ethics Committee may encompass, but are not confined to:

- Resubmission of the assignment or academic work.
- A failing grade in the viva-voce examination or a failing grade for the entire course, depending on the significance of the work toward the overall course grade.
- Suspension from the program (for students).
- Suspension of contract (for faculty and staff).
- Withholding of the course completion certificate (for students).