As an institution of higher education committed to the advancement of scholarship, Texas A&M University is responsible for (1) promoting academic practices that encourage honesty and scientific integrity and (2) developing rules and procedures for dealing with allegations or other indications of fraud or serious misconduct.

All members of Texas A&M—students, staff, faculty, and administrators—share responsibility for maintaining ethical standards of research and scholarship and reporting suspected abuse of these standards.

Reports of scientific misconduct are reviewed by the University’s designated officer in a preliminary assessment to determine whether there is sufficient information to warrant review of the allegation by a faculty committee. The designated officer may recommend to the provost that an inquiry committee be organized to evaluate the allegation and to recommend whether a formal investigation ought to be conducted. The provost, as the University’s deciding officer, makes the final determination on whether to organize an inquiry committee and, if warranted, an investigation committee. The provost also reviews and approves any recommendations from the designated officer, an inquiry committee, and an investigation committee.

The credibility of academic research and scholarship depends critically on the integrity with which it is designed, conducted, documented, and communicated.