

Definition of Misconduct in Research or Scholarship

The Texas A&M University System defines misconduct in research or scholarship as the fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, reviewing, or reporting research. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data. Nor does it include other forms of misconduct, such as sexual or other forms of harassment, misuse of funds, gross negligence in a person's professional activities, etc.

Responsibility to Report Misconduct

A Texas A&M University employee who becomes aware of possible misconduct in research or scholarship should immediately report the concerns and/or allegations to his/her supervisor, department head, or dean, who will consult immediately with the designated officer regarding the nature of the concerns and/or allegations. The designated officer for Texas A&M is Dr. J. Martin Scholtz, executive associate vice president for research.

Response to Allegations of Misconduct

There are three stages of response to an allegation of misconduct: (1) assessment, (2) inquiry, and (3) investigation. Each of these stages is explained fully in [University Rule 15.99.03.M1.01: Guidelines for Scientific Misconduct Investigation and Inquiry](http://rules.tamu.edu/PDFs/15.99.03.M1.01.pdf) (<http://rules.tamu.edu/PDFs/15.99.03.M1.01.pdf>). The designated officer is responsible for carrying out this rule and related standard administrative procedures (SAPs).

Additional Information

- [Texas A&M University System Regulation 15.99.03: Ethics in Research and Scholarship](http://policies.tamus.edu/15-99-03.pdf) (<http://policies.tamus.edu/15-99-03.pdf>)
- [Texas A&M University Rule 15.99.03.M1: Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship](http://rules.tamu.edu/PDFs/15.99.03.M1.pdf) (<http://rules.tamu.edu/PDFs/15.99.03.M1.pdf>)
- [Texas A&M University SAP 15.99.03.M1.01: Guidelines for Scientific Misconduct Investigation and Inquiry](http://rules.tamu.edu/PDFs/15.99.03.M1.01.pdf) (<http://rules.tamu.edu/PDFs/15.99.03.M1.01.pdf>)
- [Texas A&M University SAP 15.99.03.M1.02: Guidelines for Authorship and Publication Practices](http://rules.tamu.edu/PDFs/15.99.03.M1.02.pdf) (<http://rules.tamu.edu/PDFs/15.99.03.M1.02.pdf>)
- [Texas A&M University SAP 15.99.03.M1.03: Guidelines for Gathering, Storage, and Retention of Data and Results](http://rules.tamu.edu/PDFs/15.99.03.M1.03.pdf) (<http://rules.tamu.edu/PDFs/15.99.03.M1.03.pdf>)



Protecting the Complainant and Respondent

Although the Texas Public Information Act may prevent the designated officer from providing anonymity to a known complainant, the complainant will be treated with fairness and respect and, when the concern(s) and/or allegation(s) has been expressed in good faith, reasonable steps will be taken to protect against retaliation directed toward the position and reputation of the complainant.

The respondent will be treated with fairness and respect and reasonable steps will be taken to ensure that procedural safeguards listed in system regulations and in University rules and SAPs are followed.

DR. J. MARTIN SCHOLTZ

Executive Associate Vice President for Research
Texas A&M University
979.845.8585 • jm-scholtz@tamu.edu