

# Code of Ethics for Research



**Centurion**  
**UNIVERSITY**

*Shaping Lives...*  
*Empowering Communities...*

Centurion University of Technology and Management, Odisha

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## **1. PURPOSE**

Research and development comprise of systematic work undertaken to enhance and increase the treasure of knowledge of people, culture, and society, and use of this treasure of knowledge to invent new applications for sustainable well-being. It is a culmination of activities original as well as innovative that encompass academic, professional, and technological domains. Research demands freedom of choice all the while comprehending their implications as well to maintain benchmarks requires rigor and integrity. Research shall therefore comply with ethical, legal, and professional bounds.

The repute of the university relies on standards and ethics that it propagates in rendering research activities carried out by the scholars. The code hence intends to outline the mannerisms of research scholars registered for their doctoral program in dealing with the academic community, contemporaries, and public at large in terms of disciplines and behavior all the while being sincere and diligent to uphold the mission of the university and hence instilling greater trust among all stakeholders. The Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM) mandated research supervisors and research scholars to strictly follow the system of academic integrity and originality observed as per the stipulations of the University Grants Commission (UGC). The institution gives utmost importance in encouraging its faculty and research scholars to follow ethical guidelines framed by the institution and the UGC while carrying out research activities. The university has constituted an internal ethics committee for research which involves human and animal subjects.

## **2. ETHICAL DIMENSIONS OF RESEARCH**

The widely accepted five ethical dimensions of academic research are;

- 1) Normative ethics- includes determining what is right and wrong
- 2) Compliance- includes instituted policies and regulations at the university
- 3) Rigor and reproducibility – “only kind of science that can offer social value and justify risks to subjects and financial investment in research”.
- 4) Social Value- “means that research addresses problems of importance to society, generating knowledge used to solve real-world problems through new technologies or procedures Workplace relationships- a newly identified aspect of research that in essence

forecasts the beneficial relationship that has to be established and sustained for greater outcomes.

### **3. INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The university is committed to ensuring that all activities that encompass the university and in particular those including research are facilitated to the highest of standards as well as upholding legal, ethical, and safety norms. The institutional responsibility inherently is individuals' professional responsibilities on behalf of the Centurion University of Technology and Management.

The University thus;

- 1) Formulate research governance framework via policies and procedures.
- 2) Facilitates training and development programs and appropriate mentoring to enable skill up-gradation and consequential support for career development.
- 3) Provides research orientation for achieving excellence.
- 4) Institutes robust management systems that ensure compliance with set standards as well as systems for resolving disputes and prevent misconduct; also process for apt decision making and grievance redressal.
- 5) Provides appropriate infrastructure and resources, support, and services.
- 6) Provides incentives to the research scholars and faculties to promote the research

### **4. LEADERSHIP AND SUPERVISION**

Leadership in the context of this code is to motivate/inspire to act in a way that benefits the university. Leaders, the research supervisor, are expected to foster a conducive ambiance to promote sound research accolades to the university. Leaders are to facilitate research activities by assuredly upholding the integrity and sound governance and ethical practice, as well as instill a culture of honesty, co-operation, and professionalism.

As a supervisor, the leader is expected to exhibit apt competence in providing the training necessary to garner improved research results and acceptance by the stakeholders. The

research supervisor shall maintain a professional supervisor–supervisee relationship and assign credit appropriately.

## **5. TRAINING AND MENTORSHIP**

It is the prerogative that the university lays policies to ensure all researchers received training opportunities and ensuing supervision and required assistance to enable research of the highest standards. The Research and Development Cell is to facilitate directions and coordination to in filter the policies to all stakeholders. The Research and Development Cell shall therefore facilitate training programs i.e., coursework (research methodology, regulatory, equipment use, confidentiality, data management, record-keeping, data protection, and publication). The Cell shall ensure the appropriate use of licensed research resources and IPR as well as gear up the concerned administrative and technical personnel for accurate record- keeping and providing technical assistance for research.

A research mentor, a knowledgeable, open-minded, supportive, and a good listener himself, in the context of this code, is expected to serve as a catalyst, a role model, and a coach that facilitates progressive research beneficial for all researchers. The research mentor shall therefore inspire and demand disseminating research outcomes in the various publicizing medium such as conference, journal, etc.

## **6. ACADEMIC FREEDOM, INTEGRITY, AND RESPONSIBILITY**

The university renders academic freedom to all researchers to pursue knowledge and conduct advanced research without unreasonable interference or restriction from any quarters, norms, law, institutional regulations, or public pressure. Within the bounds of the university, a researcher is given appropriate freedom to inquire into the subject of study, to present research findings, to publish data and conclusions without control or censorship, in the manner, it is considered professionally appropriate. The researcher must exercise the freedom diligently and care must be taken to abhor violations of widely-recognized academic research standards, that represent serious offenses to the entire academic community and such things will be considered injurious to the credibility of the University which strives to promote excellence in academic research.

## **7. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The university recommends every researcher to consider ethics and moral philosophy sincerely, those that address morality. These orient a researcher in terms of their behavior from a moral perspective. Ethics apply to all aspects of personal and organizational practice and are therefore relevant to professions as a whole and in particular a researcher at the university.

In dealing with research participants and other researchers, research scholars have a responsibility to ensure as far as possible that the physical, social, and psychological well-being of their research participants is not detrimentally affected by the research. Research scholars must abhor actions that potentiate deleterious consequence for the stakeholders or which might undermine the discipline's repute.

## **8. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)**

The university deems fit to encourage and facilitate successful utilization of intellectual property rights. Intellectual Property is the product of innovative, diligent, creative, and intellectual effort. The Centurion University has constituted an Intellectual Property cell (IP cell) for encouraging the Patent, Copyrights and Design Applications publications. The IP cell will support faculty in submission and processing of the Patents publication and granting. The Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research and Learning) has been heading the Cell.

Types of IP are copyrights, patents, trademarks, and trade secrets.

### **a) Copyright**

Copyright is a legal term used to describe the rights that creators have over their literary and artistic works. Works covered by copyright range from books, music, paintings, sculpture, and films, to computer programs, databases, advertisements, maps, and technical drawings. Copyright does not protect ideas. It covers “tangible” forms of creations and original work—for example, art, music, architectural drawings, or even software codes. The copyright owner has the exclusive right to sell, publish, and/or

reproduce any literary, musical, dramatic, artistic, or architectural work created by the author.

## **b) Patents**

A patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention. Generally speaking, a patent provides the patent owner with the right to decide how - or whether - the invention can be used by others. In exchange for this right, the patent owner makes technical information about the invention publicly available in the published patent document.

A patent is used to prevent an invention from being created, sold, or used by another party without permission. A Patent Owner has every right to commercialize his/her/its patent, including buying and selling the patent or granting a license to the invention to any third party under mutually agreed terms.

There are three different categories of patents:

- I. **Utility Patent:** A utility patent protects the creation of a new or improved product, process, and composition of matter, or machine that is useful.
- II. **Design patent:** A design patent protects the ornamental design of a useful item.
- III. **Plant patent:** A plant patent protects new kinds of plants produced by cuttings or other non-sexual means.

Once an invention has been patented, the patent owner has the right to regulate any monetization activities involving the patent. However, before a patent application is filed, it is important to make sure that the invention is, in fact, new and unique. Otherwise, the patent application will be rejected. Therefore, for an invention to receive a patent, it must meet the following requirements: novelty, non-obviousness, and usefulness. The faculty needs to note that for publication of the patent, they can approach through IP Cell.

## **c) Trademarks**

Trademarks are another familiar type of intellectual property rights protection. A trademark is a sign capable of distinguishing the goods or services of one enterprise from those of other enterprises. Trademarks date back to ancient times when artisans used to

put their signature or "mark" on their products. Some examples include McDonald's golden arch, the Face book logo, and so on.

A trademark can come in the form of text, a phrase, symbol, sound, smell, and/or color scheme. Unlike patents, a trademark can protect a set or class of products or services, instead of just one product or process. An industrial design constitutes the ornamental or aesthetic aspect of an article. A design may consist of three-dimensional features, such as the shape or surface of an article, or two- dimensional features, such as patterns, lines, or color.

**d) Trade secrets**

Trade secrets are IP rights on confidential information which may be sold or licensed. The unauthorized acquisition, use, or disclosure of such secret information in a manner contrary to honest commercial practices by others is regarded as an unfair practice and a violation of the trade secret protection.

**9. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

Researchers may receive confidential information from other researchers, collaborators, and funders. Researchers need to ensure that they handle confidential and/or restricted information carefully and not use or disclose it to others without the consent of the party who owns the confidential information. Researchers must also ensure that they are aware of any confidentiality provisions applying to specific projects involving commercially sensitive data or Intellectual Property, and of possible obligations concerning those provisions.

**I. Publication and Authorship**

All researchers are expected to publish and disseminate the results of their research in an open, honest, transparent, and accurate manner, and via all appropriate media such as journal papers, books, reviews, software, a data repository, or conference proceedings. While both the Intellectual Property rights regulations and the requirements of research contracts must be satisfied.



## II. Norms of Publications

The University expects all the publications to conform to appropriate discipline-specific professional standards, as well as the following examples of good practices:

- i. In any publication, the authors must be able to identify their contribution to it. They should be familiar with its content and accept personal responsibility for it.
- ii. In all aspects of research, the contributions of formal collaborators and all others who have directly assisted or indirectly supported the research (including research students, research staff, and professional services staff) should be properly acknowledged with their permission.
- iii. Funding agencies of research should be acknowledged.
- iv. The sequence in which authors are listed should be agreed upon by all authors.
- v. Intentional failure to acknowledge the contributions of others is regarded as unprofessional conduct, and instances other than minor omissions will be treated as research misconduct.
- vi. Any person who has not made an intellectual, scholarly, or practical contribution, and has not participated in a substantial way in conceiving, executing, or interpreting at least part of the relevant research, should not be included as an author of the publication derived from that research. The so-called 'honorary authorship', is not encouraged.
- vi. Research scholars must acknowledge and attribute all sources used in the research in line with their specific discipline citation and referencing convention.
- vii. When a researcher submits substantially similar work to more than one publisher should disclose that fact to the publishers at the time of submission.
- ix. Researchers have the full responsibility to ensure that any inconsistencies or errors in their published material are rectified on time.
- x. The stipendiary Research scholars should observe the conditions, if any, set by funding or other bodies regarding the publication of their research.

## 10. RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

Misconduct in academic research implies but is not limited to fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or deception in proposing, carrying out, or reporting results of research and deliberate, dangerous, or negligent deviations from accepted practice in carrying out research. It includes failure to follow an agreed protocol if and when this failure results in unreasonable risk or harm to persons, the environment, and when it facilitates misconduct in research by collusion in, or concealment of, such actions by others. The university demands that research misconduct is to be abhorred by a researcher and further states that "research misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion".

Misconduct includes but is not limited to the following acts:

- a. **Plagiarism:** The deliberate copying of ideas, text, data, or other work (or any combination thereof) without due permission and acknowledgment. Plagiarism is "the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit". Representing any part or parts of another's work as one's own is considered plagiarism and may be a violation of the Principle of Ethics.
- b. **Piracy:** The deliberate exploitation of ideas from others without proper acknowledgment.
- c. **Abuse of Intellectual Property Rights:** Failure to observe legal norms regarding copyright and the moral rights of authors.
- d. **Abuse of Research Resources:** Failure to observe the terms and conditions of institutionally licensed research resources.
- e. **Defamation:** Failure to observe relevant legal norms governing libel and slander.
- f. **Misinterpretation:** The deliberate attempt to represent falsely or unfairly the ideas or work of others, whether or not for personal gain or enhancement.

- Provide guidance and academic support to scholars on ethical issues in respect of teaching, research, and other academic activities.
- Act as a consultative body for any disputed matter concerning research ethics and conduct and to make recommendations to the University on what action, if any, should be taken as a result of identified misconduct committed by the individuals and based on inquiries and detailed investigations.

The Committee will produce a report stating the procedures under which the formal investigation was conducted; how and, where appropriate, from whom information was obtained; the findings of the committee and the basis for these; a summary of the views of the respondent; and a description of any recommendations made by the committee.

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