

<b>Section:</b>	II.3.37	
<b>Title:</b>	Research Misconduct	
<b>Effective Date:</b>	09/01/2017	
<b>Approved By:</b>	Vice President of Academic Affairs/Provost	
<b>Responsible Unit:</b>	Office of Grants and Sponsored Research (609.771.3255), grants@tcnj.edu	
<b>Related Documents:</b>	<i>Research Misconduct Procedures</i> <i>Research Misconduct Training Procedures</i>	
<b>History:</b>		
<u>Version</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1.0	09/01/2017	Initial Release

## I. INTRODUCTION

This unit policy promotes compliance with federal requirements (42 CFR Part 93) for reporting scientific misconduct investigations and adopting institutional actions in response to findings of scientific misconduct. It is intended to guide The College of New Jersey (“TCNJ” or “the College”) officials responsible for assessing allegations of potential research misconduct, conducting inquiries and investigations into allegations, and reporting investigation results and findings. This policy supports the College’s commitment to protect the integrity and credibility of research activities at the College and to maintain public trust and confidence in TCNJ and its employees.

## II. DEFINITIONS

- A. *Allegation* - Any written or oral statement or other indication of possible scientific misconduct made to a College official.
- B. *Investigation* - The formal examination and evaluation of all relevant facts to determine if scientific misconduct has occurred and, if so, to determine the responsible person and the seriousness of the misconduct.
- C. *Research Misconduct<sup>i</sup>* – The fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing or performing research or reporting research results. Honest error and/or differences in opinion are not research misconduct.
- D. *Scientific misconduct or misconduct in science* - Fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, or other practices that seriously deviate from those that are commonly accepted within the scientific community for proposing, conducting, or reporting research. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data.

### **III. POLICY**

#### **A. General Policy**

As an academic institution committed to the discovery and dissemination of truth, The College of New Jersey expects all members of the College to conduct themselves honestly and with a professional demeanor in all academic activities. TCNJ has established standards of academic conduct to support its belief that academic honesty is a matter of individual and institutional responsibility, and that when standards of honesty are violated, each member of the community is harmed.

Members of the College community are expected to acknowledge their individual responsibility and to be familiar with and adhere to the Research Misconduct Policy. This policy applies to all aspects of research, scholarship, and professional endeavors of all faculty, librarians, professional staff, and administration at TCNJ.

#### **B. Conduct of Research**

1. Each member of the College has the responsibility to ensure that scholarly and scientific research is conducted in accordance with the highest standards of academic integrity. Specifically, those who conduct research or monitor the research of others must strive to ensure that the research:
  - Follows accepted standards concerning evidence and justification applicable to research of that kind;
  - Avoids all forms of fraud, deceit, and dishonesty; and
  - Adheres to accepted scholarly standards regarding proper citation of others' work, and recognizes and acknowledges the intellectual contributions of all involved, including the contributions of their colleagues and students.
2. In the case of applied research, care must be taken to ensure that conflicts of interest between the impartial and objective search for knowledge and the prospect of personal profit or gain do not occur.
3. All research/sponsored research at TCNJ shall comply with all College policies and procedures and all applicable laws, policies, rules, and regulations of the United States government, NJ State, and local laws.
4. Research/sponsored research must also adhere to professional guidelines commonly accepted within the specific discipline.