



GRADUATE STUDENTS AND ETHICS at the University of Toronto

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Graduate Students and Ethics in Graduate Research

Know Your Rights
and
Understand Your Responsibilities



ETHICS in Graduate Research

Is involved in your relationships with:

- Your Professors and Supervisor(s)
- Fellow Students
- The University
- Scientists/Industry outside the University
- Granting/Funding agencies
- Society



Ethics in the Graduate Student/ Professor Dynamic

- Collegial relationships desirable
- Power must not be misused.
- Students are paid to be students, to work on a specific research program.



Graduate Supervision Guidelines

- The School of Graduate Studies provides information that answers many questions about issues arising in graduate supervision

<http://www.facmed.utoronto.ca/Assets/FacMed+Digital+Assets/graduate/2008-09/Supervision.pdf>



FUZZY ISSUES

Q1. Who do you include as an author on a paper?

Q2. Can you switch to another research supervisor part-way through your graduate program?



Common Sources of Ethical Problems in Research

- Ownership of intellectual property
- Authorship of papers
- Use of another's ideas without credit
- Misrepresentation of research results
- Unauthorized use of University facilities



Proceed with Caution:

You should not presume that everyone you deal with will behave ethically regarding:

- Ownership of intellectual property
- Confidentiality agreements
- Non-disclosure agreements



PROTECT Yourself by:

1. Frequent open discussions with your supervisor and colleagues.
2. Knowing the relevant University policies.



University of Toronto Policy on Ethical Conduct in Research

- Governing Council approved a Policy on Ethical Conduct in Research.

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/ethicalr.htm>



U of T Policies (cont'd)

- University Policy on Ethical Conduct in Research
<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/ethicalr.htm>
- University of Toronto Framework to Address Research Misconduct
<http://www.research.utoronto.ca/ethics/pdf/conduct/framework.pdf>
- Code on Academic Behaviour
<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>
- Code of Student Conduct
<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/studentc.htm>
- University Research Ethics - involving humans, animals or hazardous materials
<http://www.research.utoronto.ca/for-researchers-administrators/ethics/human/policy-related-to-ethics/>



University of Toronto Intellectual Property Regulations and Guidelines

- University of Toronto Policy on Intellectual Property
<http://www.research.utoronto.ca/for-researchers-administrators/commercialization-knowledge-transfer/ip-the-basics/>
- Intellectual Property Guidelines for Graduate Students and Supervisors
<http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/governance/policies/intellectualprop.htm>



Related Policy Documents

The University has policies on related issues in place:

- U of T Publication Policy
- Inventions Policy
- Policy on Copyright and other Proprietary matters
- Policy on Computer Software

<http://www.research.utoronto.ca/for-researchers-administrators/commercialization-knowledge-transfer/ip-the-basics/>



Seeking Advice

The Advice/Information-Chain:

1. Your supervisor
2. Your Graduate Office staff
3. Your Department Chair
5. Vice-Dean, School of Graduate Studies



REMINDER

Ethical Conduct is Often—but Not Always—Common Sense

When in doubt use your resources



Additional Resources

- University of Toronto Office of Research Services Guide for Graduate Students
http://www.research.utoronto.ca/ethics/pdf/human/nonspecific/ERO_Guidelines_Manual.pdf
- NSERC Ethics Policies
http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/NSERC-CRSNG/policies-politiques/index_eng.asp
- The Dr. Nancy Olivieri case
<http://www.caut.ca/pages.asp?lang=1&page=199>
- The Schoen Affair at Lucent: 3 page executive summary of the Beasley Report - illustrates issues regarding responsibilities of authorship
<http://physicist.org/tip/INPHFA/vol-8/iss-6/p12.html>
- Case Western Reserve University: online Ethics Center for Engineering and Science offers an extensive collection of topics relevant to ethics
<http://www.onlineethics.org/>

Useful Guidelines from the American Physical Society *Statement on Ethics*

- Statement on Policies for Handling Allegations of Research Misconduct
<http://www.aps.org/policy/statements/index.cfm>
- Guidelines for Professional Conduct
http://www.aps.org/policy/statements/02_2.cfm
- Statement of Policy on Equal Professional Opportunity
http://www.aps.org/policy/statements/94_3.cfm
- Guidelines for Professional Conduct
http://www.aps.org/policy/statements/02_2.cfm
- Statement on Displays in the Workplace of Graphic Material Depicting Demeaning Images of Women
http://www.aps.org/policy/statements/88_1.cfm

A Final Word:

- Know your rights
- Understand your responsibilities
- Use available resources when difficult situations arise

