

**The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth  
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences**

**Code of Conduct**

**PRINCIPLES**

Scientific research is the search for truths about our physical and natural world. This search can succeed only if it is carried out with the highest levels of integrity and honesty. Simply put, the search for truth must itself be truthful. These same principles apply to students preparing for careers in scientific research. Their studies and their research must be conducted with absolute honesty and integrity. This Code of Conduct describes the behaviors that characterize academic honesty and integrity and, conversely, those behaviors that violate the standards of both The University of Texas System and the Faculty of The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Further information is provided on the consequences of unacceptable behavior and what responsibilities students have for encouraging appropriate behavior on the part of others.

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM RULES ON STUDENT CONDUCT**

The University of Texas System Board of Regents has promulgated, in its *Rules and Regulations* (Rule 50101), a set of guidelines concerning student conduct and discipline. These guidelines include the following:

**Sec. 2** "Standards of Conduct. All students are expected and required to obey federal, State, and local laws, to comply with the Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, with the University of Texas System and institutional rules and regulations, with directives issued by an administrative official of the U. T. System or institution in the course of his or her authorized duties, and to observe standards of conduct appropriate for an academic institution."

**Sec. 2.2** "Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts."

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER UTHEALTH GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

In compliance with the Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, the MD Anderson UTHealth GSBS has set forth the following definitions and regulations concerning scholastic dishonesty:

1. Confirmed cases of cheating, plagiarism, or dishonesty in research are grounds for dismissal from the Graduate School.
2. Cheating is defined as either receiving aid or offering aid on examinations and quizzes. Unless a professor specifically states it is acceptable, it is considered cheating to either receive or give help on class papers and assignments.
3. Plagiarism is defined as: "**Plagiarize...1. To steal and use (the ideas and writings of another) as one's own. 2. To appropriate passages or ideas from another and use them as one's own...**," (from *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 1971.*)\*\* And is frequently manifest as: (a) knowingly submitting work as one's own when it contains direct or paraphrased quotes from another source; (b) knowingly using someone else's ideas and presenting them as one's own.
4. Dishonesty in research includes deliberately fabricating, falsifying or distorting data and/or research protocols.

\*\* Please see the following webpage for further information regarding plagiarism:

<https://gsbs.uth.edu/academics/policies/plagiarism.htm>

**CONSEQUENCES OF UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS**

Once an allegation has been made that a student has committed an act of scholastic dishonesty, the *Rules and Regulations* of the Regents are followed. These *Rules and Regulations* (Rule 50101, Sections 4 - 7) specify the manner in which the investigation is conducted, the rights of the student concerning due process, the appeals that the student may make, and the disciplinary actions that may be taken. Penalties may range from disciplinary probation to a failing grade in a course to expulsion from the school.

**STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE CONDUCT OF OTHERS**

In addition to insuring that their own work is above reproach, researchers and scholars have a collective responsibility for the integrity of the scientific enterprise. One aspect of this responsibility entails intolerance for inappropriate or dishonest behaviors on the part of their colleagues. Students, as future research scientists have the same responsibility. Accordingly, GSBS students should not hesitate to report what they believe are instances of scholastic dishonesty to the appropriate instructor or Dean. However, under this Code of Conduct, a GSBS student has no formal or binding obligation to report such incidents.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND PLEDGE**

GSBS students are expected to read this Code of Conduct and sign the pledge below before starting classes in the GSBS and at the time of petitioning for advancement to candidacy:

- I acknowledge that I have read the Code of Conduct for GSBS students and understand its objectives and principles.
- I understand that I am responsible for knowing and obeying the rules and regulations of The University of Texas Board of Regents and the GSBS as they pertain to scholastic dishonesty.
- I understand that if I am found guilty of an act of scholastic dishonesty, the penalties can be severe, including expulsion from the GSBS.
- Accordingly, I pledge that I will neither give nor receive unauthorized help on any examination, paper, or assignment that requires individual responsibility and that I will be scrupulously honest in the conduct of my research and the presentation of my research results.

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Print Name of student

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Signature

\_\_\_\_\_   
 Date