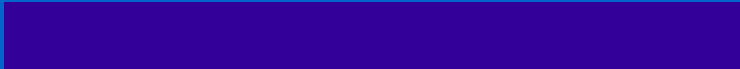


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Academic Ethics



Academic Misconduct
Research Ethics
Human Subjects Research
Ethics training



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Academic Misconduct

- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Claiming the ideas of others as your own
- Falsifying data
- Interfering with the work of others

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Cheating

- Getting help on a test, exam or assignment without *explicit* authorization from the instructor
- *Giving* help without explicit authorization
- Submitting the same work for two different classes without prior authorization from the instructor

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Cheating

- Submitting the same work for more than one class may be permitted with prior authorization by both professors
- Typically, a more substantial piece of work will be required in such cases

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Cheating

- If you have any question whether helping each other is allowed.....
- Ask the instructor

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Plagiarism

- Using the words *or ideas* of others without explicit citation
- If you use the words of others, use quotation marks and reference the source
- If you use the ideas of others, make clear you are doing so and reference the source

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Plagiarism

- It doesn't matter if the work cited is published or unpublished, if it is the work of a friend, colleague, fellow student, professor, or anyone else
- It doesn't matter if your assignment is written or oral, you must still cite your sources

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Plagiarism

- **Correct:**
 - In a previous study, Jones found “**the consequences of iron deficiency in infancy are devastating**” (Jones, 1994)
- **Plagiarism:**
 - There have been many studies of iron deficiency. They found **the consequences of iron deficiency in infancy are devastating** (Smith 1992; Jones 1994; Kumar, 1985).

Plagiarism

- Correct:
 - Previous studies suggest **cognitive losses due to iron deficiency are caused by interference with the dopamine receptor system** (Smith, 1992; Jones, 1994; Kumar, 1986).
- **Plagiarism**
 - **Cognitive losses due to iron deficiency are caused by interference with the dopamine receptor system.** (No references provided.)
- (Note: *this is plagiarism even if the references are listed in the bibliography.*)

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Plagiarism

- Correct:
 - Our study tests Jones' (1994) hypothesis that iron deficiency affects cognition through the dopamine receptor system in the brain.
- **Plagiarism:**
 - The proposed study tests the hypothesis that iron deficiency affects cognition through the dopamine receptor system.

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Plagiarism

- Self-plagiarism: publishing the same material in more than one place
- This is considered misconduct: ‘redundant publication’
- Is there a fuzzy line here?

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Plagiarism

- Internet has made plagiarism extremely easy and tempting

BUT

- Internet has made it amazingly easy to identify plagiarized work!

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Sanctions

- Sanctions for academic misconduct may include
 - Grade reduction
 - Requirement for additional work
 - Assignment of a failing grade in the course

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Sanctions

- Serious or repeated instances of academic misconduct may result in
 - Temporary suspension
 - Withholding of honors and awards
 - Withdrawal of financial aid
 - Dismissal
 - Note of reason for dismissal on permanent record

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Ethical Issues in Research

- Academic conduct
- Choice of question
- Treatment of subjects
- Use of funds
- Analysis and interpretation
- Reporting

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Claiming the Ideas of Others

- It is academic misconduct to claim to have originated ideas for research, interpretation, or other significant original thought
- It doesn't matter if the other person is a friend, fellow-student, colleague, professor, or anyone else
- Use of others' ideas in developing your own is allowable, as long as explicit credit is given for their contribution

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Falsifying Data

- Falsifying or manipulating data to reach a desired conclusion is grave misconduct
- Falsifying data includes
 - Selectively dropping cases or variables
 - Making up data
 - Selectively reporting or suppressing results

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Interfering With Others' Work

- Altering, sabotaging, or otherwise interfering with the work of others, or
- Attempting to do so

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Control and Ownership

- Ownership of data
- Rights to publish
- Authorship credit requires
 - Contribute to the research
 - Write or revise the article
 - Approve the final version
 - Just providing the funds is not sufficient
- It is wise to discuss these issues in advance!

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Choice of Question

- Risks balanced with possible benefits of the research
- Possible uses and misuses of the results
- Influence of funding sources
- So what? Is the research useful?

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Treatment of Subjects

- Voluntary participation/coercion
 - Implied coercion
 - Coercive (excessive) compensation
 - False promises

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Treatment of Subjects

- Ethical treatment of human subjects
 - Harm
 - Risk
 - Deception
 - Anonymity
 - Confidentiality

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Treatment of Subjects

- Milestones
 - Nuremberg Code
 - Ten principles – voluntary, useful, no undue harm, scientific qualification of researchers..
 - Belmont Report
 - Autonomy (respect for persons)
 - Beneficence
 - Justice

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Analysis and Interpretation

- Can you change your question after the fact? (Or add a new question)

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Reporting

- Obligation to report results
 - Negative results
 - Unexpected results
 - Lack of results
- Accepting research support if the right to report results is compromised (not permitted at Tufts)
 - But risk of influence (still) exists

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Use of Funds

- Responsible use of funds for intended purposes only
- Accounting properly
- Getting advance permission for deviations

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Research in Other Countries

- Responsibilities
 - Who chooses the question?
 - Who benefits?
 - Capacity building?
- Adaptation of IRB process
- Adaptation of informed consent process (?)

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Human Subjects Research

- ALL research using data collected from human subjects is subject to review by the Institutional Review Board (IRB)
- This includes original data collection and use of existing human subjects data for a purpose other than that for which it was originally collected
- This includes human subject data used, or collected for use, in a class

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Human Subjects Research

- Many types of studies, including some qualitative and quantitative surveys, are exempt from IRB review, but...
- *You must submit your study to the IRB*
- The IRB determines whether your data collection effort is exempt, eligible for expedited review, or requires full review

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Human Subjects Research

- Many data collection or data analysis projects are not intended to produce generalizable or publishable result, and thus may be exempt from IRB review, but....
- *You must submit your study to the IRB*
- The IRB will determine if it is exempt

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Human Subjects Research

- Certain protections are mandatory when collecting data from human subjects
- You can find guidelines for informed consent and other protections on the web
- Forms and guidelines for requesting review are also found on the web.
- <http://www.tufts.edu/central/research/IRB/main.htm>

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- Human Subjects Research: Elements of Informed Consent

- It is **research**
- Participation is **voluntary** (no sanctions for refusal or for stopping participation)
- **Procedures** to be followed
- Possible **risks**; possible **benefits**; alternative treatments (if applicable)
- **Anonymity or confidentiality** protection
 - Anonymity is not the same as confidentiality
- Compensation, options in case of harm
- **Contact information** in case of problems

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Human Subjects Research

- IRB review is an absolute requirement of the University for all research and data collection involving human subjects
- Many journals will not accept articles for review without evidence that the research was cleared in advance by the Institutional Review Board

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Human Subjects Research

- If your research is in the social sciences, contact
 - Medford IRB Office, 617 627 3417
 - Yvonne.Wakeford@tufts.edu
- If your research is in the biomedical sciences, contact
 - Boston IRB Office, 617 636-7512
 - André Briola abriola@tufts.edu
- Forms may be found at
<http://www.tufts.edu/central/research/IRB.htm>

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Human Subjects Ethics Training

- All researchers including students are required to complete ethics training regarding treatment of human subjects if they are involved in human subjects research
- Evidence of human subjects ethics training is required for some research grant applications
- Ethics training requirements change from time to time (and will change Jan 1); check the web site...
- **Collaborative IRB Training Initiative (CITI) Program**

Table 1 | Percentage of scientists who say that they engaged in the behaviour listed within the previous three years (n = 3,247)

Top ten behaviours	All	Mid-career	Early-career
1. Falsifying or 'cooking' research data	0.3	0.2	0.5
2. Ignoring major aspects of human-subject requirements	0.3	0.3	0.4
3. Not properly disclosing involvement in firms whose products are based on one's own research	0.3	0.4	0.3
4. Relationships with students, research subjects or clients that may be interpreted as questionable	1.4	1.3	1.4
5. Using another's ideas without obtaining permission or giving due credit	1.4	1.7	1.0
6. Unauthorized use of confidential information in connection with one's own research	1.7	2.4	0.8 ***
7. Failing to present data that contradict one's own previous research	6.0	6.5	5.3
8. Circumventing certain minor aspects of human-subject requirements	7.6	9.0	6.0 **
9. Overlooking others' use of flawed data or questionable interpretation of data	12.5	12.2	12.8
10. Changing the design, methodology or results of a study in response to pressure from a funding source	15.5	20.6	9.5 ***

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Other behaviours

11. Publishing the same data or results in two or more publications	4.7	5.9	3.4 **
12. Inappropriately assigning authorship credit	10.0	12.3	7.4 ***
13. Withholding details of methodology or results in papers or proposals	10.8	12.4	8.9 **
14. Using inadequate or inappropriate research designs	13.5	14.6	12.2
15. Dropping observations or data points from analyses based on a gut feeling that they were inaccurate	15.3	14.3	16.5
16. Inadequate record keeping related to research projects	27.5	27.7	27.3

Note: significance of χ^2 tests of differences between mid- and early-career scientists are noted by ** ($P < 0.01$) and *** ($P < 0.001$).

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Resources

- Tufts University. 2003. “Academic Integrity @ Tufts.” <http://studentservices.tufts.edu/dos>
- Dartmouth College. “Sources: Their Use and Acknowledgement.” <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~sources/>
- Long Island University. “Citation Style for Research Papers.” <http://www.liunet.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citation.htm>

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More Resources

- Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 6th edition. University of Chicago Press, 1996.
- University of Chicago Press Staff, editor **The Chicago Manual of Style, 15th Edition**. 15th Edition. 984 p., 2003