

Allegations of Research Misconduct

What is Research Misconduct (RM)?

Research Misconduct means fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. Research Misconduct does not include honest errors, differences of opinion or authorship disputes.

- **Fabrication** – making up data or results and recording or reporting them
- **Falsification** – manipulating research materials, equipment or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record
- **Plagiarism** – appropriating another person’s ideas, processes, results or words without giving appropriate credit

Will there be any repercussions to me if I report RM?

To protect those reporting a potential research misconduct violation, university policy prohibits retaliation against persons who, acting in good faith, provide information concerning alleged misconduct.

Confidentiality is maintained throughout the investigation of the alleged research misconduct to the greatest extent possible and consistent with federal and state laws. However, under California law, information pertaining to a misconduct case can become publicly available (upon request) at the end of the investigation.

How do I report Research Misconduct?

If you suspect someone is engaged in research misconduct, please report it to:

- Your Department Chair or PI
- Your Unit Dean/Director
- UCR’s Research Integrity Officer (RIO), Djurdjica Coss at djurdjica.coss@ucr.edu
or
- The University of California’s independent reporting agency, [EthicsPoint](#) at 800-403-4744

What is the process after I report an allegation?

There are three stages that could occur after an allegation is reported:

- **Preliminary Assessment** – This is the initial review of the allegation to determine whether an inquiry is warranted. An inquiry is warranted if the allegation matches the definition of research misconduct and is sufficiently credible and specific for potential evidence of research misconduct to be identified.
- **Inquiry** – This is an initial review of the evidence to determine whether there is sufficient substance to warrant a formal investigation. An investigation is warranted if there is a reasonable basis for concluding that an allegation matches the definition of research misconduct, and preliminary information-gathering and preliminary fact-finding indicate that the allegation may have substance.
- **Investigation** – This is the formal review of the allegation to determine whether research misconduct has been committed. It is performed by members of an *ad hoc* investigation committee who have sufficient expertise in the subject matter under investigation.

What are some key things to keep in mind?

UCR is obligated to investigate good faith RM allegations and follow due process for respondents and complainants.

The University considers respondents to be innocent of misconduct until the final determination is made.

The University has an obligation to treat RM participants fairly and provide requested information and services.

What is the University policy for Research Misconduct?

529-900: *Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct*:

<https://redit.ucr.edu/OrApps/RED/Policies.aspx?k=31>

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Whom can I talk to if I am involved with the RM review processes?

Faculty & Staff

ComPsych offers confidential counselling, referral and other services for UCR faculty and staff:

<https://hr.ucr.edu/employee-resources/faculty-and-staff-assistance-program>

or (866) 615-3047

TTY: (800) 697-0353

Students

Case Managers provide support and assistance to students experiencing challenges that impact their personal and/or academic life goals through problem solving and connecting them to services and resources available on campus and/or in the community. You can call 951-827-5000 to set up an appointment with a Case Manager, or email them at casemanager@ucr.edu.
Webpage: <https://casemanagement.ucr.edu/>

Other Resources:

UCR CAPS: 951-827-5531- (24 hours, 7 days a week)

Riverside Helpline: 951-686-4357

UCPD – for safety concerns, 24/7: 951-827-5222

Is there a confidential resource on campus I can talk to about RM?

If an allegation is reported to anyone other than the ARIO or the RIO, that person should then report the allegation to the ARIO. Please note that the RIO/ARIO may not keep these matters confidential.

- If you are unsure whether a particular incident or practice constitutes research misconduct or a regulation/policy violation, you can contact the ARIO to discuss the matter.
- If you wish to discuss the matter with someone confidentially, you can contact the [UCR Ombuds](#) at 951-827-3213. The Ombuds Office can also help you navigate the RM process.

Who are the key players in the RM process?

To the extent it is legally possible, UCR will maintain confidentiality to protect your position and reputation. All participants may consult with legal counsel or a non-lawyer personal advisor (who is not involved in the case).

- **Complainant** – makes an allegation of RM
- **Respondent** – subject of the RM allegation
- **RIO (Research Integrity Officer)** – execute a fair, impartial and competent review of allegations of research misconduct
- **Witness(es)** – Person(s) pertinent to the RM inquiry or investigation

Possible Paths for RM Reviews

