



# Manual of Policy and Procedures

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A. Definition

As defined by 42 CFR 50, “research” means a systematic investigation, study, or experiment designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. The term encompasses basic and applied research (e.g., a published article, book, or book chapter) and product development (e.g., a diagnostic test or drug.)

B. Policy Regarding Externally Funded Research

Individuals conducting research with external funds are required to comply with the following:

1. Financial Conflict of Interest in Research: To promote objectivity in research and to ensure, to the extent possible, that the design, conduct, or reporting of research is not compromised by a researcher’s conflicting financial interests, the VSC takes steps to mitigate real or perceived financial conflicts of interest associated with externally funded research. These steps are outlined in the procedures.

Individuals at VSC institutions who conduct research are required to disclose whether they, their spouse or partner, and/or their dependent children hold any significant financial interests that might bias their research. Designated officials shall review financial disclosure statements and determine whether a financial conflict of interest exists. If a financial conflict of interest is identified, the VSC shall appropriately manage, reduce, or eliminate the conflict.

*See the Chancellor’s Procedures for Implementation of Policy 435: Financial Conflict of Interest in Research.*

2. Research Standards: To ensure that research undertaken at its institutions is conducted in an objective and ethical manner, the VSC has established research standards that

comply with federal regulations pertaining to responsible and ethical conduct of research, research on human subjects, and research involving animals.

a) Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research

The VSC expects that all faculty, staff, and students in the system who are involved with research will follow ethical and professional standards. To ensure that participants in funded research receive training on how to ethically conduct research, the VSC maintains a Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research plan. See the *Chancellor's Procedures for Implementation of Policy 435: Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research*.


b) Research Involving Human Subjects

To protect human subjects from physical, psychological, or social injury resulting from research, each VSC institution maintains a process for reviewing and approving research requests that involve human subjects. Anyone planning to conduct research on human subjects must receive institutional approval before beginning work on the project. Institutions with Institutional Review Boards will comply with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regulations 45 CFR 46 – Protection of Human Subjects and 21 CFR 56 – Institutional Review Boards.

c) Research Involving Animals

The USDA and the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare at the National Institutes of Health have established regulations and guidelines for the use of animals in research. The VSC requires that investigators comply with these regulations and guidelines if they use animals in their research.

3. Research Misconduct: The VSC expects that research performed at member institutions will be conducted with integrity and honesty. Institutions will promptly investigate all cases of alleged or apparent misconduct in research. The process for this is spelled out in the procedures. As defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human regulation CFR 42.93.103, “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 or differences of opinion. See the *Chancellor's Procedures for Implementation of Policy 435: Research Misconduct*

Signed by:  _____ Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor
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Date	Version	Revision	Approved By
6/20/2019	1.0	Adopted	VSCS Board of Trustees
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