



SIGMA
UNIVERSITY
— **VADODARA** —

Code of Ethics for Research

(Approved in 4th Academic Council Meeting, dated on: 13.12.2024)

SIGMA UNIVERSITY

Ajwa-Nimeta Road

At & Po: Bakrol, Vadodara-390019

Gujarat (India)

www.sigmauniversity.ac.in

| Code of Ethics for Research | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Short Description | : | This manual delineates the policy for the Code of Ethics for Research at Sigma University, aimed at fostering a cohesive research culture characterized by adherence to sound research ethics. The policy establishes guidelines to be followed uniformly across the institution, ensuring consistency in both administrative and academic decisions. By promoting integrity, transparency, and accountability, this framework aspires to enhance the quality and credibility of research conducted at Sigma University. All faculty, staff, and students are expected to uphold these ethical standards to cultivate an environment conducive to innovative and responsible research practices. |
| Scope | : | This Policy apply to all researchers of the University |
| Policy Status | : | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Revised |
| Date of Approval of Version 1 | : | 13 December 2024 |
| Revision No | : | NA |
| Brief Description of Last Revision | : | NA |
| Date of Approval of Current Revision | : | 13 December 2024 |
| Effective Date | : | 13 December 2024 |
| Approval Authority | : | Provost, Sigma University |
| Responsible Officer | : | Dean, FDSR |

| Content | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Sr. No. | Item | Page No. |
| 1 | Preamble | 3 |
| 2 | Objectives | 3 |
| 3 | Scope | 4 |
| | 3.1 Academic Honesty | 4 |
| | 3.2 Integrity | 4 |
| | 3.3 Carefulness | 4 |
| | 3.4 Respect for Intellectual Property | 4 |
| | 3.5 Confidentiality | 4 |
| | 3.6 Social Responsibility | 5 |
| | 3.7 Competence | 5 |
| | 3.8 Legality | 5 |
| | 3.9 Animal Care | 5 |
| | 3.10 Human Subject Protection | 5 |
| 4 | Reference | 5 |

1 Preamble

Sigma University is dedicated to advancing research that serves the broader community. All institutes under the University are committed to conducting research that prioritizes the well-being of individuals, organizations, and industries. To uphold the trust placed in researchers by participants, funding agencies, and society at large, it is imperative that researchers conduct themselves with integrity and professionalism, consistently respecting the rights and dignity of all participants, organizations, and industries involved. In this context, all faculty members, researchers, and students engaged in research activities are required to adhere to the established code of research ethics.

Furthermore, this code emphasizes the importance of transparency, accountability, and ethical consideration in all research endeavours. Researchers are expected to maintain high standards of honesty and objectivity, ensuring that their work contributes positively to the advancement of knowledge and societal welfare. Compliance with these ethical guidelines is essential to fostering an environment of trust and respect within the academic community and beyond.

2 Objectives

Sigma University establishes a comprehensive Code of Ethics for Research, which aims to:

- i. Provide a robust ethical framework that guides the ethical review process across the campus, ensuring that all research activities adhere to the highest standards of integrity and accountability.
- ii. Promote exemplary ethical standards in research and scholarship, fostering a culture of responsibility and respect for human dignity, environmental sustainability, and the advancement of knowledge.
- iii. Ensure compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and institutional policies, thereby safeguarding the rights and welfare of research participants and the integrity of the research process.
- iv. Encourage transparency, honesty, and integrity in all research endeavours, fostering an environment where ethical considerations are at the forefront of scholarly activities.
- v. Facilitate ongoing education and training for faculty, staff, and students regarding ethical research practices, empowering them to make informed decisions and to address ethical dilemmas effectively.

This Code serves as a guiding document for all members of the university community involved in research, ensuring that ethical principles are integrated into the research process and upheld in all academic pursuits.

3 Scope

This document outlines the Code of Research Ethics for all faculty members, researchers, and students engaged in research activities at Sigma University. It establishes ethical guidelines for the responsible conduct of research, covering all stages from data collection to dissemination, including the handling of surveys, interviews, and the reporting of findings. Adherence to these principles is essential to uphold the integrity and credibility of research within the university.

The Code addresses the following core ethical principles:

3.1 Academic Honesty

Researchers must be transparent and truthful in all scientific communications. Report data, methods, procedures, and results accurately, without fabrication, falsification, or misrepresentation. Avoid any form of deception toward colleagues, funding agencies, or the public.

3.2 Integrity

Commit to high standards of integrity in research by honouring promises and agreements. Strive for consistency between thought and action, and act sincerely in all research activities.

3.3 Carefulness

Exercise diligence to prevent errors and negligence. Carefully and critically review your work and the work of peers, and maintain clear records of all research activities, including data collection, research design, and communication with agencies or journals.

3.4 Respect for Intellectual Property

Uphold intellectual property rights, including patents and copyrights. Do not use unpublished data, methods, or results without permission, and ensure proper acknowledgment of all contributors to the research. Avoid all forms of plagiarism.

3.5 Confidentiality

Protect confidential information, such as unpublished manuscripts, grant applications, personnel records, proprietary data, and patient information.



3.6 Social Responsibility

Conduct research that promotes social good and actively works to prevent or mitigate social harm. Engage in public education and advocacy to further the benefits of research to society.

3.7 Competence

Pursue continuous professional development and strive to improve your knowledge, skills, and expertise. Support initiatives that advance competence and excellence within the scientific community.

3.8 Legality

Comply with all applicable laws, government policies, and institutional regulations that govern research.

3.9 Animal Care

Treat animals with respect and ensure humane practices in research. Avoid unnecessary or poorly designed experiments involving animals and follow all ethical guidelines for animal care and use.

3.10 Human Subjects Protection

When conducting research involving human subjects, prioritize their welfare by minimizing risks and maximizing potential benefits. Respect participants' dignity, privacy, and autonomy, take extra precautions with vulnerable populations, and strive to ensure fair distribution of research benefits and burdens.

Reference

Adapted from: Shamoo, A., & Resnik, D. (2009). *Responsible Conduct of Research* (2nd ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

This Code of Research Ethics is essential to maintaining Sigma University's commitment to high ethical standards in research and fostering a culture of academic integrity.