
Subject: Ownership and Control of Research Results

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1. Purpose

This policy is to protect the rights of the university in regard to ownership and retention of research data, results, and related records.

2. Policy

The university asserts its rights to the results of research, funded wholly or in part with university resources. In addition, university ownership of intellectual properties is covered in Policy 13,000, "Policy on Intellectual Properties." These ownership rights extend to all permanent and visiting faculty, research faculty, classified staff, wage employees, and students.

Normally, the faculty principal investigator or project leader is expected to manage the university's ownership of research results and material (this includes all data) that best advance the standard routes of publication, presentations, and other usual means of dissemination of research results for that particular field. Creation of intellectual properties must be disclosed to the university by the prescribed route.

It is the responsibility of the faculty principal investigator as project leader to preserve the research material and results in the manner that is customary to the field. This includes notebooks, computer files, samples, specimens, prototypes, etc. that are germane to the veracity and validity of the research claims.

In the event that the faculty principal investigator or project leader permanently departs the university, it is the responsibility of that person's department head to determine the disposition of the research materials and results.

It is the responsibility of principal investigators and the chairs of student thesis and dissertation committees to preserve the confidentiality of such material and to establish who may have access to them. Normally, access will be limited to university faculty, staff, and the students involved in generating these materials and/or needing access to them for bona fide research or administrative purposes.

The Graduate School may, with the agreement of department heads, major professor and students involved, embargo theses and dissertations for up to one year after successful completion to protect patent applications or for other legitimate reasons (see Graduate School Policies, Procedures and Course Catalog).

All members of the university community are expected to foster and uphold the principals set forth in the university's Statement of Professional Ethics and Responsibilities (see Faculty Handbook, Graduate School Policies, Procedures and Course Catalog).

Issues relating to the misinterpretation, incorrect application, or violation of these policies shall be resolved through the appropriate university grievance procedure (see Faculty Handbook, Graduate School Policies, Procedures and Course Catalog).

3. Procedures

4. Definitions

5. References

1. Code of Virginia Chapter 7, "The Virginia Public Records Act"
2. Policy 2000, "Management of University Records"
3. Policy 13,000, "Policy on Intellectual Properties"

6. Approval and Revisions

Recommended by the Commission on Research.
Approved by University Council: February 7, 1994.
Approved by the President: February 7, 1994.

Annual review October 3, 2001 by the Vice Provost for Research, Leonard K. Peters. No revisions.