

RESEARCH ETHICS POLICY

Introduction

Maintaining research ethics is of utmost importance in academic institutions. Government College for Women (A) (GCWA) promotes the faculty to undertake basic and applied research activities which have national and international importance. GCWA firmly believes in following ethics and maintaining transparency and accountability in research. Therefore, multiple measures are in place to prevent research misconduct; failure to adhere to these measures may result in disciplinary actions at different levels. The Code of Research Ethics determines the basic research ethical standards for faculty members, researchers, students, and all other stakeholders at the College.

College is affiliated to Acharya Nagarjuna University (ANU). The Code of Ethics followed by Acharya Nagarjuna University as per UGC guidelines is mandatory to this college. The college strictly adhere to the research policy and code of ethics laid down by Acharya Nagarjuna University (ANU) for research and researchers, which provides guidelines for the responsible conduct of ethical research.

Acharya Nagarjuna University Code of ethics and University Research policy: [View File](#)

The affiliating Acharya Nagarjuna University has included research ethics in the research methodology coursework wherein it is mandatory for all Ph.D. scholars. [View File](#)

OBJECTIVES:

- Ensure that all research activities carried out by GCW (A) align with ANU-approved research policies, codes of ethics, and comply with the regulations set forth by the Indian regulatory bodies.
- To safeguard the rights of animals, humans, or communities involved in research.

Research Ethics Committee (REC)

The GCW (A) has constituted a Research Ethics committee (REC) to manage all ethical matters in research. This committee is responsible for preparing research ethics policies, including those related to animal ethics, bioethics, and chemical ethics. It also reviews and approves all types of research proposals involving human and animal participants, biosafety, and the use of chemicals in research. The REC consists of the following members:

- The Principal
- REC Coordinator

- One faculty member from languages/Arts
- One faculty member from Physical sciences
- One faculty member from commerce
- The IQAC coordinator

POLICIES FOR ANIMAL ETHICS, BIO-ETHICS AND CHEMICAL ETHICS

i) ANIMAL ETHICS

Working with Animals: Experiments involving animals fall under the purview of the Research Ethics Committee, which operates according to the guidelines set by CPCSEA (Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals). In India, the Committee for the Purpose of Control and Supervision on Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA), has laid down guidelines to assure quality maintenance and humane care of laboratory animals while conducting scientific experiments. These guidelines also set rules for proper procurement, quarantine and rearing of laboratory animals. The guidelines can be found at: https://ccsea.gov.in/Content/54_1_ACTS,RULESANDGUIDELINES.aspx [View File](#) and <https://ccsea.gov.in/>

ii) BIO-ETHICS

Recognizing the contributions of individuals who volunteer for biomedical research is essential. To safeguard their interests, ethical guidelines have been established. GCW (A) fully complies with the ethical guidelines set by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Government of India, for biomedical research involving human participants.

Research involving human subjects adheres to principles such as the necessity of the research, voluntariness, informed consent, non-exploitation, confidentiality, accountability, and transparency. The guidelines are available at: [**icmr.nic.in/ethical_guidelines.pdf**](https://icmr.nic.in/ethical_guidelines.pdf)

Recombinant DNA technology is widely used for introducing genes or related material into microorganisms, plants, and animals. The Department of Biotechnology has issued guidelines for research in this field. The details of Biosafety-Regulations and Biocontainment Guidelines-2017 can be found at: <https://dbtindia.gov.in/guidelines-biosafety>

iii) CHEMICAL ETHICS

Working with Chemicals: The Bureau of Indian Standards, under the Government of India, recommends a safety code for all chemical laboratories across the country. This code includes guidelines for identifying potential chemical hazards and implementing corrective measures to promptly reduce accidents. Every researcher at GCW (A) is expected to follow the guidelines especially with the hazardous chemicals. Details can be found at: images10.newegg.com/UploadFilesForNewegg/.../is.4209.19871453376681588.pdf

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iv) PLAGIARISM CHECK THROUGH SOFTWARE

The Affiliating University makes it mandatory for all faculty, researchers & students to adhere to the policy of academic malpractice and plagiarism and strives to use best tools and practices to identify and check academic malpractice and plagiarism.

- In order to ensure academic integrity, check malpractices and plagiarism, the University follows a Policy Guidelines for Plagiarism Prevention that all research material originating from the university should be original and not plagiarized from any source. These guidelines shall apply to all Faculty members, Staff, Research fellows, Ph.D Scholars and students before they publish any research work with University affiliation.