



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

What is the University policy for Research Misconduct?

Policy 4-0125: *Complaints of Research Misconduct*
<https://adminfinance.okstate.edu/site-files/documents/policies/complaints-of-research-misconduct.pdf>

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.
- **Initial 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.
- **Formal 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.

OSU 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.

How do I report?

If you suspect someone is engaged in research misconduct, please report it to one of the following:

- OSU's Research Integrity Officer (RIO), Dr. Christine Johnson, at christine.johnson@okstate.edu or (405) 744-2361
- Oklahoma State University's anonymous reporting system by phone at 1.866.294.8692 or online at https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/en/default_reporter.asp

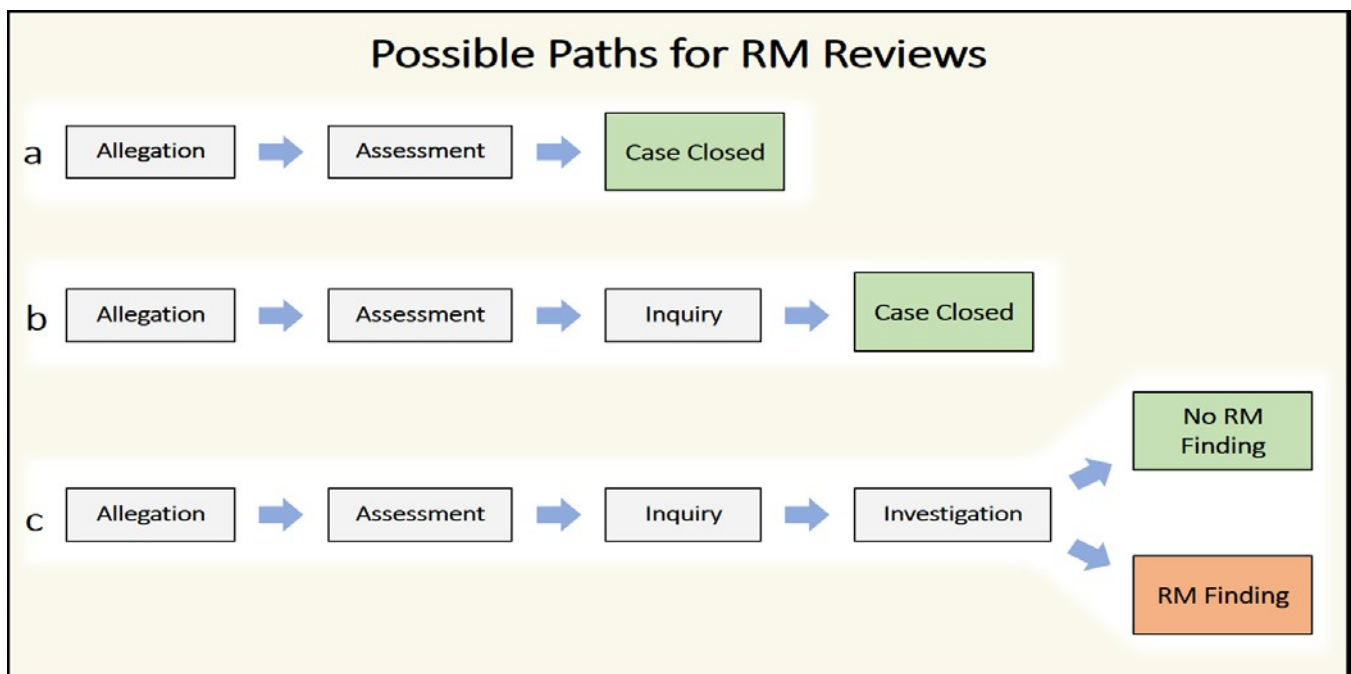


Allegations of Research Misconduct

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.

If you are unsure whether a particular incident or practice constitutes research misconduct or a regulation/policy violation, you can contact the RIO to discuss the matter.



This document was adapted from guidance developed by the University of California Riverside; adapted with permission.