



RESEARCH ETHICS

Overview of Responsible Conduct of Research

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- What are research ethics? (aka Responsible Conduct of Research, Research Integrity)
 - Policy at NMU
 - Major concepts: Intellectual Property, Conflicts of Disclosure
 - Training at NMU
 - What Research Ethics look like in practice
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COVERING THE BASICS

Research Ethics are

"a kind of applied practical ethics, meaning that it attempts to resolve not merely general issues but also specific problems that arise in the conduct of research. Its goal is to determine the appropriateness of specific conduct and to establish the agents one ought to take in a particular situation." (Peach, Lucianda, 1995, A introduction to ethical theory.)

RESEARCH ETHICS ARE ALSO ...

Research ethics provide guidelines for the responsible conduct of biomedical or other research. In addition, research ethic educates and monitors scientists conducting research to ensure a higher ethical standard. (University of Minnesota, Center for bioethics. 2003)

Wait ... but what are ethics?



Morals refer to how you treat
people you know.

Ethics refer to how you treat
people you don't know.

RESEARCH ETHICS = GOOD CITIZENSHIP APPLIED TO SCIENCE

Four basic tenants:

HONESTY: convey information truthfully and honor commitments

ACCURACY: report findings precisely and take care to avoid errors

EFFICIENCY: use resources wisely and avoid waste

OBJECTIVITY: let the facts speak for themselves and avoid improper bias



Write these down (they're important)

- Be honest
- Be fair
- Do not harm
- Know and follow the rules
- Bad rules should be changed, not broken
- Be a good citizen
- When in doubt, ask questions
- Listen to your conscience
- If you suspect unethical behavior, proceed cautiously or seek counsel

RESEARCH MISCONDUCT AT NMU

Faculty, staff and students at Northern Michigan University have the right and responsibility to create, seek and state knowledge freely and openly to strive for academic excellence. Honesty in the conduct of academic research is fundamental to its integrity and credibility and to the maintenance of public trust in the university.

