

## 15.03 Research Compliance Office

Revised [May 21, 2026](#) (MO -2026)  
Next Scheduled Review: May 21, 2031



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### Policy Summary

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The Board of Regents (board) of The Texas A&M University System (system) is committed to maintaining the highest standards of research integrity and compliance. This policy establishes the framework for (a) designating the system Chief Research Compliance Officer (CRCO), (b) achieving the highest levels of research compliance, (c) promoting an organizational culture of ethical and compliant research, and (d) ensuring that each member develops, implements, and maintains research compliance programs relevant to their research portfolio.

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### Policy

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#### 1. RESEARCH COMPLIANCE OFFICE

1.1 For purposes of this policy, the system research compliance program refers to administrative oversight designed to (a) ensure that the system and each member develops, implements, and maintains an appropriate research compliance program, and (b) facilitate and coordinate research compliance programs within and between members.

1.2 It is the responsibility of the system and each member to take appropriate action that promotes a commitment to the highest level of research integrity and compliance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and other applicable requirements, including, but not limited to, system policies and regulations, and member rules and procedures.

1.3 Areas of research compliance covered by the system research compliance program includes, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) human subjects
- (b) vertebrate animals
- (c) biohazards
- (d) controlled substances
- (e) research misconduct
- (f) responsible conduct of research/responsible and ethical conduct of research training
- (g) financial conflict of interest in research

1.4 The chief research officer (CRO) for the system must appoint a chief research compliance officer (CRCO) who reports to the CRO and collaborates with the system chief compliance officer. The CRCO leads the system Research Compliance Office

(RCO) and works closely with the System Office of General Counsel (OGC), the System Ethics and Compliance Office (SECO), and other offices as necessary.

- 1.5 The CRCO is responsible for establishing and maintaining an effective systemwide research compliance program designed to ensure that appropriate research compliance rules, procedures, and related activities are present at each member. Additionally, the system RCO undertakes the following activities:
  - 1.5.1 Serves as a source of research compliance information for members including the development of targeted guidance and acceptable practices where applicable, as well as strategic initiatives to elevate research compliance throughout the system.
  - 1.5.2 Assists with the development of and is responsible for approving system member annual research compliance plans, including reviews of major areas of research compliance risk.
  - 1.5.3 Guides and assists members in research compliance activities, including reporting non-compliance and adverse events to oversight agencies, advising on risk mitigation strategies, providing research compliance program assessments, and supporting research compliance incident reviews.
  - 1.5.4 Supports and trains system member CROs, institutional officials (IOs), faculty, and research compliance leadership.
  - 1.5.5 Communicates with federal regulatory agencies and oversight bodies when needed to resolve regulatory questions, concerns, or interpretations that impact system members.
  - 1.5.6 Guides system members on accreditation, assurance, and registration efforts.
- 1.6 The chief executive officer (CEO) or designee of each member must appoint an IO who is the individual responsible for that member's research compliance program. The IO must be a senior administrative official, such as the member's CRO, who is the ultimate authority responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring research compliance programs at the member as defined in this policy.

## 2. SHARED SERVICES

- 2.1 As a shared service entity, members will work closely with the RCO in exercising the office's available resources, including but not limited to subject matter expertise, communications with regulatory agencies, and training.
- 2.2 The CRCO will work primarily with the CRO for each member, who will typically also serve as the member's IO for research compliance programs, and other research compliance leads as designated by the CRO.

## 3. REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

- 3.1 Each member is responsible for complying with all applicable federal or state reporting requirements. The reporting obligations set forth below fulfill the purposes of this policy, enable the system and each member to assess risk and determine where additional resources should be allocated, and assist the member to respond as needed. The reporting obligations set forth below do not replace, change, or modify reporting

requirements or any other action required of a member under federal, state, or other requirements.

- 3.2 Each member is responsible for reporting research compliance violations to federal and state agencies as prescribed by law, and to any other oversight bodies, and in accordance with the member's established internal reporting requirements. In addition, members must report incidents, including both noncompliance and adverse events, to the system RCO as established by the CRCO. The system RCO will promptly notify appropriate system officials, including the CRO, the system ethics and compliance officer, and others as appropriate. The system RCO must maintain a systemwide mechanism to gather and evaluate incidents of research non-compliance and adverse events, with reporting guidelines established by the Vice Chancellor for Research and CRCO.

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## **Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements**

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[System Policy 15.01, Research Agreements](#)

[System Regulation 15.01.01, Sponsored Agreements – Research and Other](#)

[System Regulation 15.01.02, Federal Procurement Integrity Act](#)

[System Regulation 15.01.03, Financial Conflicts of Interest in Sponsored Research](#)

[System Regulation 15.03.01, Use of Human Subjects in Research](#)

[System Regulation 15.03.03, Research Misconduct](#)

[System Regulation 15.03.06, Use of Biohazardous Material in Research, Teaching and Testing](#)

[System Regulation 15.03.07, Use of Vertebrate Animals](#)

[System Policy 24.01, Risk Management](#)

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## **Member Rule Requirements**

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A rule is not required to supplement this policy.

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## **Contact Office**

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Research  
(979) 458-5598