



MEPCO SCHLENK ENGINEERING COLLEGE

(An Autonomous Institution - AFFILIATED TO ANNA UNIVERSITY, CHENNAI)
UG Programmes - NBA Accredited (TIER - I), NAAC Accredited with ' A ' Grade
An ISO-9001:2015 Certified Institution

Code of Ethics in Academic/Research Practices

Mepco Schlenk Engineering College (MSEC) is dedicated to stimulating and maintaining highest standards of honesty and liability in carrying out academic research and maintaining the tradition of righteousness and transparency in all academic and research activities within the campus.

MSEC mandates its faculty, research students (PhD, M.Tech and B.Tech), and technicians to adhere to the highest standards of truthfulness in carrying out academic research and/or upkeep of academic research activities.

This document furnishes recommendations on good academic/research practices at the MSEC and defines academic/research misconduct and the role of the research committee in maintaining research integrity and preventing academic misconduct.

Good Academic/Research Practices

Honesty and accountability in carrying out academic research forms the foundation of any academic institution and failing to abide by the accepted academic research guidelines denotes severe insults to the whole academic/research community at MSEC and has been considered damaging to its credibility and authority as an institution.

To maintain academic integrity, the academic/research community, which include faculty, staff, research scholars and technicians should exhibit honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, legality and dissemination.

- *Honesty: Maintaining intellectual and personal honesty in teaching, learning, performing and reporting research.*

- *Trust: Maintaining mutual trust and respect to encourage sharing of knowledge, research ideas and data/results amongst the academic/research community and collaborators.*
- *Fairness: Fairness in giving credits to scientific contribution of individuals and ensure fairness in institutional standards and practices.*
- *Respect: Promoting respect among faculty, staff and students: respect for scholarship and research, for the educational activities and materials, laboratory belongings, and intellectual property rights.*
- *Responsibility: Encouraging high standards of behaviour in learning, teaching, and research by executing joint academic responsibility among the researchers.*
- *Legality: Appreciating legal norms in conducting and publishing research results (copyright and IPR, authorship, inventorship, and ownership).*
- *Communication: Disseminating the results of one's research to the scientific community. Publishing research outcomes in Scopus and SCI indexed journals are strongly encouraged. Publishing one's research outcomes in "predatory journals" is unacceptable as these journals publish articles with minimum or no peer review and are interested in making money.*

Roles of the Research Committee

- Advising, guiding and governing the MSEC academic/research community on all issues/disputes relating to the conduct of academic/research and following academic/research ethics
- Assisting the Academic Council in framing/updating the 'Code of Ethics in Academic/Research Practice' of the MSEC.
- Guiding and supporting faculty, research scholars and students on ethical issues pertinent to teaching, research/academic activities.

- Guiding the faculty, research scholars and students in publishing their research outcomes in legitimate journals and guide them in distinguishing predatory journals from legitimate ones.
- Representing MSEC to network with external funding agencies and scientific bodies.
- Investigating and counselling issues regarding research ethics and misconduct.
- Protecting the whistle-blowers against any retaliatory actions by those who are involved in research/academic misconduct.
- Recommending/imposing disciplinary actions for scientific misconduct after an investigation.

Research Misconduct

Misconduct in academic research denotes fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or dishonesty in proposing, conducting or presenting scientific results. In addition, academic/research misconduct includes intentional, inattentive deviations from recognized practices in conducting research, which includes failure to abide by the approved practices particularly when it results in endangering people, environment and the system. Academic/research misconduct further enables research misconduct in connivance, or in secrecy by others. Misconduct does not include errors that are unintentional/genuine or genuine differences in interpreting and/or evaluating research methodology and results, or any misconduct unrelated to the conduct of the research.

Misconduct includes (and is not limited to) the following acts:

- *Plagiarism: premeditated replication of a manuscript, data, results, images, figures and ideas from others work, reproducing others results without proper consent from the original authors. Reproducing one's own manuscripts, data, results, images, figures in another form is considered "self-plagiarism" and should be avoided. The use of ideas,*

words, matching text from others or one's own work/publications should be limited to a certain extent as prescribed by the research committee.

- *Piracy: The intentional abuse of ideas from other researchers/colleagues without appropriately acknowledging them.*
- *Abuse of Intellectual Property Rights: Failure to comply with the rules concerning copyright and intellectual property rights of authors.*
- *Abuse of Research Resources: Failure to comply with the rules concerning licensed research resources available at the institution.*
- *Misrepresentation: The premeditated attempts of unethical or false representation ideas or work of other researchers.*
- *Personation: stealing and submitting others research as one own*
- *Fabrication and Fraud: data fabrication without doing proper experiments, falsification of experimental data, deliberate reporting of data without sufficient replication of experiments deliberate reporting of data with misleading interpretations*
- *Sabotage: preventing others from using instruments, stealing/hiding others laboratory notebooks, damaging others laboratory notebooks, wilfully interfering in others experiments*
- *Misconduct by faculty: Acts of faculty such as not giving credit to the deserving in the form of authorship or proper acknowledgement and giving undue credit to those who have not significantly contributed to the work such as "honorary authorship" or inventorship/ownership in patents.*
- *Denying access to information or material: indiscriminately denying access to others researchers/students/colleagues to academic/research resources or intentionally and needlessly hamper their academic/research progress.*

- *Discrimination: Deliberate act of favouring a particular section of people (includes bias over religion, caste, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and gender).*
- *Harassment: Sexual misconduct by faculty, research scholar or students towards the opposite gender. Use of abusive language, frequent insults, threatening, exploiting the weaker ones such as women in general by men, juniors by seniors, students by faculty etc.*

Penalties

Disciplinary actions recommended by the Research Committee may include but are not limited to:

- Resubmitting the assignment or academic work
- A failing grade for the viva-voce examination; or a failing grade for the course, depending on the significance of the work towards the overall course grade
- Suspension from the program (for students)
- Suspension of contract (for faculty and staff)
- Withholding of course completion certificate (for students)