

GRSC6029/6030/6031/6032/6033 Research Ethics for Graduate Students

Content:

The value and benefits of research are vitally dependent on the integrity of the research. To ensure the trustworthiness of research, researchers should abide by principles of honesty, accountability, professional courtesy and fairness, and good stewardship in the conduct and publication of their work. The purpose of this course is to reinforce the importance that The University of Hong Kong places on the preservation of these values in all research conducted at the university.

In this course, students will learn essential vocabulary, principles, and practices conducive to the promotion of research integrity in general and in their relevant disciplines. Students can expect to encounter terminology, texts, and tenets that relate to good conduct in the teaching and research professions.

Approaches to these topics will vary according to the research discipline. Five Research Ethics courses (GRSC6029/6030/6031/6032/6033) are offered for graduate students to select according to the Faculties they belong.

Organization:

This course comprises twelve hours (six 2-hour classes). The class will normally include a brief lecture and an in-class, case-based discussion.

GRSC6029 Research Ethics for Graduate Students (Faculties of Business & Economics, Education, Law and Social Sciences)

This course covers the international standards associated with the conduct of human-subject research, with a particular focus on survey, ethnographic, archival, and qualitative research. Topics also covered include issues of authorship, mentoring, and professional ethics for academics in the university.

GRSC6030 Research Ethics for Graduate Students (Faculties of Arts and Architecture)

This course covers major texts, tenets, and topics pertinent to conducting ethical research in the creative academic disciplines, such as arts, humanities and architectures.

GRSC6031 Research Ethics for Graduate Students (Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Dentistry)

This course covers the international standards of ethical research as applied to the conduct of clinical research (i.e., pharmaceutical and medical device trials, epidemiological studies, and the concepts of good clinical practice and clinical equipoise).

GRSC6032 Research Ethics for Graduate Students (Faculty of Engineering)

This course covers topics such as international standards for good engineering practice, laboratory

safety, human subjects research protections, conflicts of interest and good scientific conduct. Students of education interested in issues of engineering and technology education may also find this course useful.

GRSC6033 Research Ethics for Graduate Students (Faculty of Science)

This course covers the international standards of ethical research as applied to the conduct of basic science research in a laboratory setting. This course reviews the standards of good laboratory practice and laboratory safety from the perspective of an ethical commitment. This course also reviews the standards of scientific research misconduct in the laboratory setting.

Remarks:

Students wishing to enroll in the Research Ethics course not intended for their home Faculties must seek approval from their supervisors and the Graduate School. Change of course though is not advisable.

Enrollment:

This course is compulsory for all MPhil and 4-year PhD students registered in or after September 2009. 3-year PhD students registered in September 2011 and thereafter are also required to take the course IF they have not yet completed equivalent training in previous research degree programmes. Professional doctorate students (EdD, DNurs, DPA, PsyD) registered in or after September 2014 are required to take this course. There is no assumption that students will be familiar with ethical concepts or standards of ethical research conduct prior to their enrollment.

Assessment:

Students must complete the following to pass the course:

- 1) web-based learning modules (CITI at the University of Miami) - an info sheet is attached for details; and
- 2) a written assignment of about 500 words.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend at least 5 of 6 classes. If students miss more than one class, they will be required to do make-up work assigned by the teacher.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should have acquired the following knowledge and competencies:

General:

- The ability to summarize the values of research integrity.
- The ability to interpret general principles of responsible conduct of research and apply these principles to their own research.
- The ability to discriminate instances of research misconduct from questionable research practices.

Specific:

- The ability to scrutinize critically their own research project for risks and benefits to wider society, their

institution, and themselves.

- The ability to recognize instances where their own research ought to be subject to review by relevant institutional research ethics review boards (e.g., Institutional Review Board, Committee for the Use of Live Animals in Teaching and Research).
- The ability to explain the obligations of ethical authorship and publication practice.
- The ability to differentiate a conflict of interests and a conflict of commitments.
- The ability to design an independent plan for ethical use, sharing, storage, and securitization of research materials and data.
- The ability to extend current principles and practices of ethical research in their disciplines to related emerging and innovative fields.