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# Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards

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## Code Statement

The University of Vermont is committed to continually strengthening its ethical culture. From the University's motto of "Studiis et Rebus Honestis" (Integrity in Theoretical and Practical Pursuits) to our values stated in "Our Common Ground" (<http://www.uvm.edu/~president/?Page=miscellaneous/commonground.html>), we are all expected to perform our jobs and to conduct business in an ethical and compliant manner. All University personnel have a shared responsibility to the University, to those we serve, to our community and to each other.

## Reason for the Code

This Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards ("Code") is a tool to help you comply with legal and regulatory requirements and with University policies and procedures. The Code is designed to help you make ethical choices when and if you are faced with a difficult decision or situation.

## Applicability of the Code

This Code applies to all University of Vermont personnel. For the purpose of this Code, personnel includes, but is not limited to, faculty, staff, volunteers, student employees, and individuals hired or contracted to perform a function that is generally associated with an employment relationship (*i.e.*, temporary employee, student employees).

## Code Elaboration

The Office of Compliance Services is responsible for the oversight of the University's compliance program; however, we are all individually responsible to be aware of and comply with the legal and regulatory requirements and with University policies and procedures relevant to our jobs. In addition, certain professions also have additional ethical standards or professional codes of conduct which members of those professions are also expected to comply with. Examples include, but are not limited to, the American Medical Association's Code of Medical Ethics and the American Bar Association's Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

Depending on the alleged violation, there may be mandatory reporting requirements (see Minors; Protection on Campus and Campus Security Authorities (CSA) – Designation of and Reporting By). If not required by a regulation, you may feel a moral obligation to report. Additionally, under this Code, reporting all types of wrongdoing is encouraged. For the purpose of this policy, “wrongdoing” is defined as:

- Real or suspected violations of legal and regulatory requirements (laws, acts, statutes, regulations), policies and procedures and/or professional standards.
- Fraudulent or dishonest conduct resulting in violation of law or University policy.

Not all compliance reports have to be reports of wrongdoing. You may also use any of the compliance reporting mechanisms if you need guidance or clarification on a policy or procedure, if you have questions related to a University process designed to comply with a legal or regulatory requirement or if you are looking for assistance or have questions when faced with an ethical decision or dilemma.

*Compliance Reporting System:*

The University has established a robust compliance reporting system made up of several reporting mechanisms. For more information on available reporting mechanisms, review the Whistleblower Policy: Reporting, Protections, & Non-Retaliation policy located at [http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/whistleblower.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/whistleblower.pdf). This policy outlines the different mechanisms including the Compliance and Ethics Reporting and HelpLine (“HelpLine”). Policies that contain reporting requirements include the preferred methods of reporting that should be followed. If a policy is silent to reporting requirements, if anonymity is requested and not provided by other reporting channels, reports may be made through the HelpLine.

For reports that are made directly to a manager or supervisor, the manager/supervisor is required to notify the Director of Compliance or the Office of General Counsel when the manager/supervisor suspects the report may result in either a violation to legal or regulatory requirements or fraudulent activity. Managers/Supervisors are encouraged to seek the advice of Compliance Services as soon as possible when they receive reports of alleged noncompliance to a legal or regulatory requirement.

Reports made through the HelpLine are received and screened through a third-party vendor. While some other mechanisms can accept anonymous reports, the best reporting method for maintaining the anonymity of anonymous reports is the HelpLine. Regardless of the reporting mechanism used, all reports are kept as confidential as possible. However, anonymity can never be guaranteed. For more information on anonymous reporting, refer to the HelpLine FAQ’s ([http://www.uvm.edu/compliance/help\\_line\\_faq](http://www.uvm.edu/compliance/help_line_faq)).

*Non-Retaliation:*

The University prohibits retaliation or retribution for a good faith report, for supporting a person who files a good faith report, or for participating in an investigation of a report. Individuals making bad faith reports are not afforded these protections. The University has adopted, “Whistleblower Policy: Reporting, Protections & Non-Retaliation” policy. Prohibited retaliation may result in discipline up to and including discharge from employment independent of the outcome of the reported wrongdoing

*Disciplinary Action:*

If wrongdoing has been substantiated, those individuals found to have committed the wrongdoing will be subject to disciplinary action at a level appropriate for the violation. Levels of disciplinary action range from a verbal warning up to dismissal. Disciplinary action could also include termination of University institutional recognition or external affiliate relationships with the University and, depending on the University's regulatory requirements, and could even include civil claims and criminal charges. Investigation and determination of discipline for represented employees will occur in accordance with provisions of the applicable collective bargaining agreement.

## **Definitions**

*Bad Faith Report:* A report that is made to deceive, is dishonest, knowingly untrue or otherwise intentionally misleading.

*Confidential Information:* Any non-public information pertaining to the University's business.

*Good Faith Report:* A report that made with a sincere belief that the issue is occurring, has occurred or there is a likelihood that it could occur. There is no malice or desire to defraud others.

*Personnel:* For the purpose of this Code, University Personnel refers to faculty, staff, volunteers, student employees, and individuals hired or contracted to perform a function that is generally associated with an employment relationship. Examples include temporary employees, graduate students receiving stipends, and contractors or other third parties serving in an employee capacity.

*Retaliation:* Taking action to harm someone in response to a report.

*Retribution:* The act of taking revenge.

*Student Employees:* This includes undergraduate and graduate students that are paid by the University for performing a function generally associated with an employee function. Student employees include, but not limited to, Graduate Teaching Assistants, Graduate Research Assistants, Graduate Assistants, Undergraduate Student Employees, and Post-Doc Associates. Pre-Doc and Post-Doc Fellows are not considered student employees.

*Whistleblower:* Someone who informs on a person or organization that they have reason to believe is engaged in an unethical, non-compliant, illicit or illegal activity.

## **Procedures**

See Principles and Standards.

## Principles and Standards

The intent of this code is to communicate the principles and standards that have been identified as most relevant to the University's stated values and your compliance program recognizing that UVM's policies and procedures extend beyond those identified in this code.

*Creating a Respectful Campus Environment:* Under state and federal statutes, it is illegal to discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, certain Veterans, age, citizenship status and genetic information. The State of Vermont also prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and related characteristics, place of birth, ancestry, veteran status, HIV status, and discrimination on the basis of age as to persons 18 and older.

University policies, procedures and other guidance that contain language related to this section of the code include:

- Amorous Relationships – Department of Athletics:  
[https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/amorous.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/amorous.pdf)
- Amorous Relationships with Students:  
[https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/student\\_relation.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/student_relation.pdf)
- Disability Accommodations for Employees and Applicants for Employment:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/hr/disabilityemployee.pdf>
- Diversity Statement:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/trustees/policymanual/VIII\\_2B\\_Diversity.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/trustees/policymanual/VIII_2B_Diversity.pdf)
- Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Policy Statement:  
[https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/affirm.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/affirm.pdf)
- Equal Opportunity in Educational Programs and Activities and Non-Harassment:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/equaledu.pdf>
- Sexual Harassment & Misconduct:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/sexharass.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/sexharass.pdf)
- Our Common Ground:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/~presdent/?Page=miscellaneous/commonground.html>

*Privacy and Security of Confidential Information:* At UVM, we recognize the importance of protecting the privacy and security of confidential information. Some of this information is legally protected. Some of it is sensitive and, for a variety of reasons, needs to be kept confidential. Whether it is legally required or just the right thing to do, the University takes this responsibility very seriously and demonstrates its commitment through its Information Security and Privacy Programs. All persons covered by this Code have a responsibility to maintain the privacy and security of confidential or sensitive information. Protection of this information can greatly reduce the risk of the misuse of information or a breach.

University policies, procedures and other guidance that contain language related to this section of the code include:

- Computer, Communication, and Network Technology Acceptable Use:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/cit/compuse.pdf>

- Data Breach Notification Policy:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/databreach.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/databreach.pdf)
- FERPA Rights Disclosure:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/ferpa.pdf>
- Information Security:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/cit/infosecurity.pdf>
- Privacy:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/privacy.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/privacy.pdf)
- Records and Documents Requests:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/records\\_request.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/records_request.pdf)
- Records Management and Retention:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/recordretention.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/recordretention.pdf)

*Conflicts of Interest and Conflicts of Commitment:* If you, or a member of your immediate family, has (or could have) a personal or financial interest that affects independent judgment as it relates to University duties OR it could result in personal gain or advancement at the expense of the University, you may have a conflict of interest. If you engage in external activities that significantly interfere with your ability to perform your UVM duties or are reasonably expected to interfere with your ability to perform your UVM duties, you may have a conflict of commitment. In both cases, the agreement, arrangement or activity could be prohibited.

University policies, procedures and other statements that contain language related to this section of the code include:

- Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/conflictinterest.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/conflictinterest.pdf)
- Financial Conflict of Interest in Sponsored Research:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/grants/researchcoi.pdf>

*Protecting University Assets and Appropriate Use of University Resources:* We all have a responsibility to make sure that University resources are not wasted or used inappropriately. Stealing, committing fraud, bribing, and providing kickbacks are all examples of inappropriate use of University resources and are all violations of the law, University policy and this Code. We must all do our part to protect University resources.

University policies, procedures and and other statements that contain language related to this section of the code include:

- Business Meal, Hospitality, and Amenity:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/procure/businessmeals.pdf>
- Computer, Communication, and Network Technology Acceptable Use:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/cit/compuse.pdf>
- Contract Approval and Signatory Authority:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/procure/contract.pdf>
- Facilities and Grounds Use:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/facil/facsched.pdf>

- Procurement or Lease of Goods and Services and Contract Approval and Signatory Authority for Procurement or Lease of Goods and Services:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/procure/procurement.pdf>
- Travel:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/travel/travel.pdf>

*Accuracy in Recordkeeping:* The University has an obligation to ensure the trust of the public and other stakeholders through its financial and regulatory reporting. This includes ensuring the accuracy and timeliness of our records and reports. Submitting false information on a timesheet or expense report is stealing. Knowingly including false financial information in a report to the government is fraud. It is imperative for all of us to be honest and truthful in all records we maintain as part of our work duties.

University policies, procedures and other statements that contain language related to this section of the code include:

- Business Meal, Hospitality and Amenity:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/procure/businessmeals.pdf>
- Effort Management and Reporting on Sponsored Agreements:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/grants/effortreporting.pdf>
- Export Controls:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/grants/export.pdf>
- I-9:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/hr/I9.pdf>
- Movable Equipment:  
[https://www.uvm.edu/policies/grants/movable\\_equipment.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/policies/grants/movable_equipment.pdf)
- Records Management and Retention:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/recordretention.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/recordretention.pdf)
- Travel:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/travel/travel.pdf>

### *Relationships with University Vendors and Other Third Parties in Business Transactions*

Personnel are expected to deal fairly with vendors and other third parties UVM conducts business with. No unfair advantage shall be taken of prospective or current vendors through manipulation, concealment, abuse of privileged information, misrepresentation of material fact or any other unfair practice. Additionally, all procurement policies and guidance must be followed to provide for a fair, impartial and inclusive selection process.

- Affiliated Organizations:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/affiliated\\_organizations.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/affiliated_organizations.pdf)
- Procurement or Lease of Goods and Services and Contract Approval and Signatory Authority for Procurement or Lease of Goods and Services:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/procure/procurement.pdf>

*Research:* At the University, the scope of research is broad and diverse. While research activities are an integral part of the University, it is also an area that is heavily regulated and, as such, poses significant compliance risks. Ethics are fundamental to all academic research. Without ethics and trust, a complex, modern research institution cannot function. Researchers must be aware of the ethical standards governing their discipline and to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.

University policies, procedures and and other statements that contain language related to this section of the code include:

- Copyright:  
[https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/copyright.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/copyright.pdf)
- Cost Transfers Involving Sponsored Agreements:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/grants/costtrans.pdf>
- Effort Management and Reporting on Sponsored Agreements:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/grants/effortreporting.pdf>
- Establishment of Advance Accounts for Sponsored Agreements:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/grants/AdvanceAcc4Sponsored.pdf>
- Export Controls:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/grants/export.pdf>
- Intellectual Property:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/intellectualproperty.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/intellectualproperty.pdf)
- Issuing and Monitoring Subawards on Sponsored Agreements:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/grants/MonitorSubaward.pdf>
- Misconduct in Research and Other Scholarly Activities:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/grants/researchmisconduct.pdf>
- Movable Equipment:  
[https://www.uvm.edu/policies/grants/movable\\_equipment.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/policies/grants/movable_equipment.pdf)
- Residual Balances on Sponsored Agreements:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/grants/BalancesSponsoredAgreements.pdf>
- Sponsored Project Administration (SPA) Website:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/spa/>
- Use of University Research Facilities and Equipment by External Users:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/grants/researchfacil.pdf>

*Freedom of Expression:* While our mission is dedicated to free expression and facilitation of the exchange of ideas, we need to balance that with our need to ensure that University endorsement is not improperly attributed and that University resources and facilities are used in a manner consistent with policy and campus safety.

University policies, procedures and and other statements that contain language related to this section of the code include:

- Campus Speakers:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/campus\\_speaker.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/campus_speaker.pdf)

- Copyright:  
[https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/copyright.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/copyright.pdf)
- Political Activities: Tax Exempt Organization Restrictions:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/political\\_activity.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/political_activity.pdf)
- Solicitation:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/solicitation.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/solicitation.pdf)
- Trademarks:  
[https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/trademark.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/trademark.pdf)
- University Name, Symbols, Letterhead and other Proprietary Indicia of Affiliation:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/letterhead.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/letterhead.pdf)
- University-Sponsored Social Media Guidelines:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/SocialGuidelines121917.pdf>

*Creating a Safe and Healthy Campus:* A safe and healthy campus refers to both environmental safety (*i.e.*, buildings, grounds) and personal safety. When it comes to a safe and healthy campus, we are all equally responsible for how we behave as well as how we treat others. If you ever feel unsafe or if you see or hear about unsafe conditions on campus or in your workplace, let someone know. Contact anyone listed under the resources section of this Code. If you ever feel that you are in immediate danger, call 911.

University policies, procedures and other statements that contain language related to this section of the code include:

Personal Safety:

- Alcohol Policy – Faculty and Staff:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/alcohol\\_employees.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/alcohol_employees.pdf)
- Alcohol, Cannabis and Other Drug Use - Faculty and Staff  
[https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/drugfreeworkplace.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/drugfreeworkplace.pdf)
- Campus Safety and Security: Clery Act:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/riskmgm/clery.pdf>
- Campus Security Authorities (CSAs) and Responsible Employees under Federal Law - Designation of and Reporting By:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/riskmgm/campussecurity.pdf>
- Minors in Laboratories:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/riskmgm/minorslab.pdf>
- Minors; Reporting of Abuse or Neglect of and Crimes:  
[https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/abuse\\_minors.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/abuse_minors.pdf)
- Personal Safety and Security:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/personalsafety.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/personalsafety.pdf)
- Protecting Minors:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/protectminors.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/protectminors.pdf)
- Sexual Harassment & Misconduct:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/sexharass.pdf](http://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/sexharass.pdf)
- Weapons and Explosives:  
[https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general\\_html/firearms.pdf](https://www.uvm.edu/policies/general_html/firearms.pdf)



Environmental Safety:

- Emergency Management Institutional Continuity:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/riskmgm/emergency.pdf>
- Fire Safety:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/policies/riskmgm/firesafety.pdf>
- Laboratory Health and Safety:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/riskmgm/labsafety.pdf>

## Resources

While the Office of Compliance Services oversees the University's compliance program, there are other offices and individuals that can provide guidance when faced with a difficult decision or situation.

- Faculty Senate:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/faculty\\_senate](http://www.uvm.edu/faculty_senate)
- Human Resources Services:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/hrs/>
- Office of Audit Services:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/compliance/audit\\_services](http://www.uvm.edu/compliance/audit_services)
- Office of General Counsel:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/~gencnsel/>
- Office of the Vice President of Executive Operations:  
[http://www.uvm.edu/president/?Page=exec\\_operations.html](http://www.uvm.edu/president/?Page=exec_operations.html)

In addition to the above listed resources, the University also offers these resources depending on the issue or your needs:

- Affirmative Action & Equal Opportunity (AAEO):  
<http://www.uvm.edu/aaeo>
- Disability Certification and Support:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/hrs/?Page=info/general/disabilitycertification.html&SM=info/infomenu.html>
- Diversity and Equity Unit:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/hrdma/depd>
- Office of International Education:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/oie/>
- Office of the Vice President for Human Resources, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs:  
<https://www.uvm.edu/hrdma>
- Risk Management & Safety:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/~riskmgmt/>
- Sponsored Project Administration (SPA):  
<http://www.uvm.edu/spa/>
- Student Financial Services:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/studentfinancialservices>

- University Financial Services:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/~cntrllrs/>

## Forms

None

## Contacts

Questions related to the daily operational interpretation of this policy should be directed to:

Director of Compliance Services, Office of Audit and Compliance Services  
(802) 656-0847  
[Tessa.Lucey@uvm.edu](mailto:Tessa.Lucey@uvm.edu)

The President is the official responsible for the interpretation and administration of this policy.

## Related Documents/Policies

Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards PowerPoint Presentation

[http://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/media/Code\\_Companion\\_Document\\_Website.ppsx](http://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/media/Code_Companion_Document_Website.ppsx)

Employee Handbooks and Collective Bargaining Agreements

<http://www.uvm.edu/hrs/?Page=info/general/handbooksandpolicies.html&SM=info/infomenu.html>

President's Compliance Statement

<https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/PresMemo11.15.16.pdf>

UVM Institutional Policy Website

<http://www.uvm.edu/policies/>

## Effective Date

Prior version was 3.2.4

Approved by the President February 6, 2017

Approved by the Chair of the Board of Trustees February 4, 2017