



Title	Conflict of Interest Related to Research
Policy No.	F.1.3
Approval Body	Board of Governors
Policy Sponsor	Vice President, Academic & Research
Last Revised/Replaces	April 5, 2013
Effective Date	September 27, 2017

CONTEXT AND PURPOSE

This policy and related procedures addresses Vancouver Community College’s (VCC; the College) expectation that all members of the College community involved in research activities identify and address actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest situations.

It is essential that public trust be maintained by the appropriate disclosure and management of conflict of interest situations.

SCOPE AND LIMITS

The College expects all those involved in research activities within the jurisdiction of the College or under its auspices (e.g., researchers, faculty, students, technical assistants, administrators, staff, etc.) to uphold the principles and processes articulated in this policy and accompanying procedures.

STATEMENT OF POLICY PRINCIPLES

1. All members of the College community engaged in research are expected to act in a manner that maintains public trust and confidence in the College and, in particular, to avoid any conflicts of interest or perceived conflicts of interest.
2. When it is not possible to avoid a conflict of interest in research activities, then it is the responsibility of the affected College community member to disclose this situation to the College immediately.
3. The College will consider conflict of interest allegations related to research associated with VCC, regardless of whether the research is led by someone within or outside of the College.
4. The College ensures conflicts of interest are dealt with appropriately.

DEFINITIONS

Researcher/Investigator: The terms *researcher* and *investigator* are used interchangeably for the purposes of this policy; *researcher/investigator*, for the purposes of this policy, means an individual—a VCC employee (faculty, staff and/or administrators at VCC), student, or other—either paid or volunteering to conduct research or scholarly activity at or through the College.

Conflict of Interest: Conflict of interest, for the purposes of this policy and its procedures, means a situation in which a researcher's/investigator's personal or financial interests are in conflict or perceived to be in conflict with the College's interests or mission, or with the proper performance of the employee's job duties, responsibilities, or obligations. A conflict of interest may be actual, potential, or perceived: a perceived conflict of interest can be as detrimental as an actual conflict of interest. Such actions undermine or compromise public confidence in the College or the College's trust in the employee's ability to discharge work responsibilities and obligations.

Research and Scholarly Activity: *Research* and *scholarly activity* refer to an undertaking intended to extend knowledge through a disciplined inquiry or systematic investigation. Scholarly activity includes research; the dissemination of new knowledge through such means as publications, presentations, and exhibitions; and the application of new knowledge in professional practice and student learning.

Research Ethics Board (REB): A decision-making body that reviews research proposals involving human participants to ensure that ethical principles are upheld.

RELATED LEGISLATION & POLICIES

Legislation

Federal Government

Tri-Council Policy Statement 2: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans (2018)

Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research (2016)

Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards (2016)

Policies

- A.3.1 Prevention of Harassment, Discrimination, and Bullying
- A.3.3 Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy (FOIPPA)
- A.3.6 Standards of Employee Conduct and Conflict of Interest
- D.4.3 Student Code of Conduct (Non-Educational Matters)
- D.4.5 Student Educational Conduct
- F.1.1 Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans
- F.1.2 Ethics and Integrity in Research and Scholarly Activity

RELATED PROCEDURES

Refer to F.1.3 Conflict of Interest Related to Research Procedures

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This policy is based upon the Conflict of Interest Related to Research policy of Langara College, with permission.