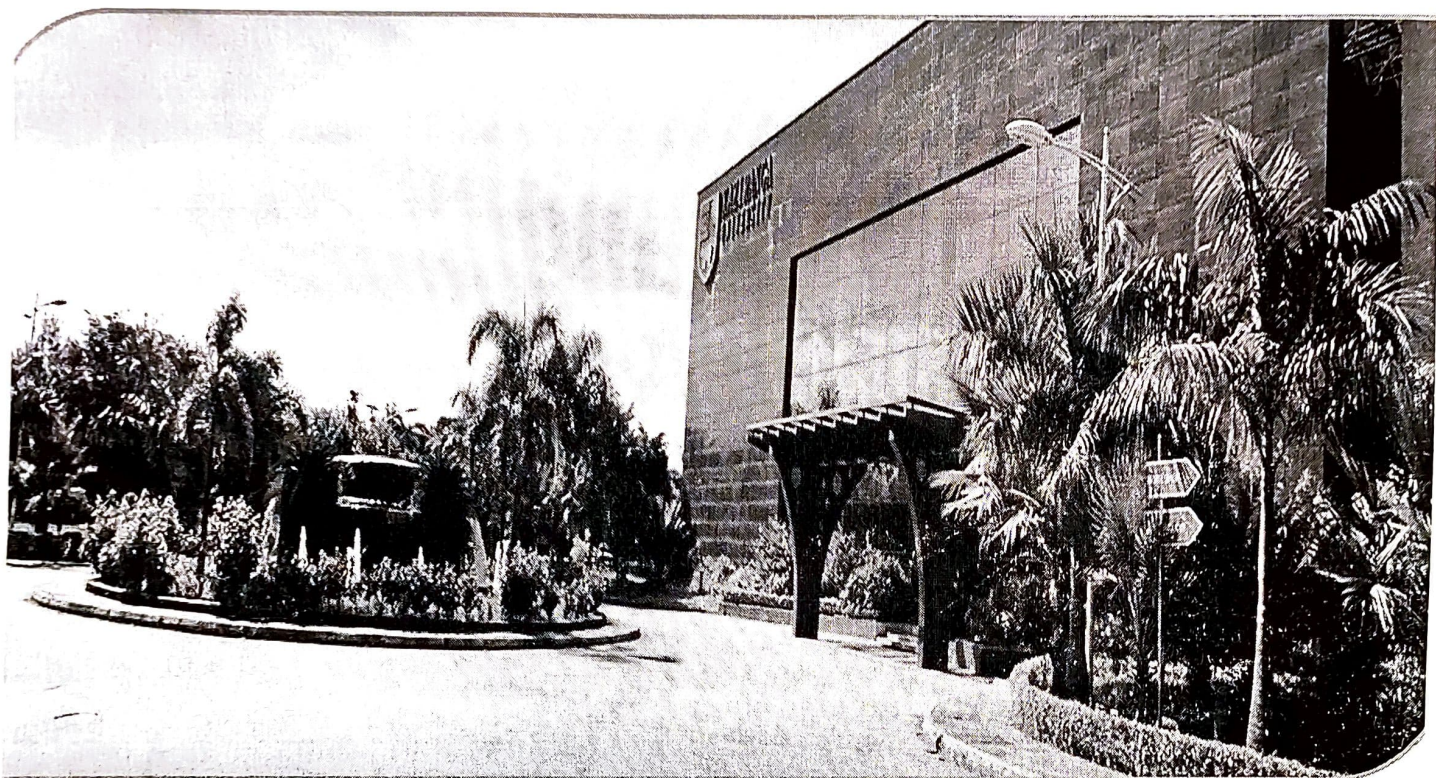


Code of Ethics for Research



The Assam Kaziranga University, Jorhat, Assam



THE ASSAM KAZIRANGA UNIVERSITY
Koraikhowa, NH-37,
Jorhat-785006, Assam, India

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INTRODUCTION

In pursuance of University Grants Commission's Academic Integrity and prevention of Plagiarism Regulation-2018 vide D. O. No F.1-18/2010 (CPP-II) dated 23 July 2018, a student / researcher/ faculty staff is required to have ethical and moral values in his academic pursuit. The student/researcher/faculty/staff of The Assam Kaziranga University is expected to produce and submit the original and genuine work in all research activities. At present, huge amount of data and literature both scientific and non-scientific is available online and offline. Monitoring such huge amount of data and information is a tedious task. Students and Researchers get easily lured to such data for usage in their day-to-day assignments. However, there occurs a breach in code of ethics when someone claims someone else's data or literature contribution as their own. Such acts are regarded as misconducts by the Academic community. Research misconduct means fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. Such academic or research misconducts have paralyzed the academic and scientific progress of academicians and researchers worldwide. Hence, in compliance with the UGC's Regulations, The Assam Kaziranga University has framed the Code of Ethics that would be implemented in the University Departments, through the mechanism prescribed in this policy document. These regulations will be called the KU Code of Ethics and Research Guidelines, 2018. These regulations will be applied to the students, faculty, researchers and staff of The Assam Kaziranga University. These regulations shall come into force from the date of approval in the Academic Council and will be implemented prospectively.


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1. Principles and Values of Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is defined in terms of the commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, legality and dissemination.

Honesty: An academic community should advance the quest for truth, knowledge, scholarship and understanding by requiring intellectual Code of Ethics in Academic Research and personal honesty in learning, teaching and research.

Trust: An academic community should foster a climate of mutual trust to encourage the free exchange of ideas and enable all to reach their highest potential.

Fairness: An academic community should seek to ensure fairness in institutional standards, practices and procedures as well as fairness in interactions between members of the community.

Respect: An academic community should promote respect among students, staff and faculty: respect for self, for others, for scholarship and research, for the educational process and intellectual heritage.

Responsibility: An academic community should uphold high standards of conduct in learning, teaching and research by requiring shared responsibility for promoting academic integrity among all members of the community.

Legality: An academic community should observe valid legal norms related to the conduct and publication of research particularly in relations to copyright, the intellectual property rights of third parties, the terms and conditions regulating access to research resources and the laws of libel.

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Communication: An academic community should seek to make the results of its research as widely and as freely available as possible.

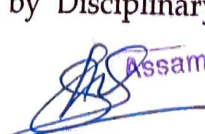
2. Objectives

- To create awareness and a sense of responsibility among students, faculty, researchers and staff about ethical issues associated with academic writing such as thesis/dissertation, technical report etc. with full responsibility.
- To promote academic integrity and prevention of academic misconduct while communicating scientific and literary submissions.
- To develop robust institutional mechanisms through education and training to students, faculty and staff.
- To develop systems in place to detect and uproot the menace of plagiarism by enforcing appropriate disciplinary action against students, faculty, researchers or staff of The Assam Kaziranga University involved in the act of plagiarism.
- The Assam Kaziranga University would conduct seminars/ awareness programs every year stressing on the importance of "Code of Ethics in Research".
- The Assam Kaziranga University would will train student, faculty, researchers and staff for using plagiarism detection tool i.e., Urkund and reference management tools such as Mendeley, Zotero, EndNote etc.

3. Disciplinary Procedures

- If a candidate is found to be involved in an act of misconduct, misbehavior, or indiscipline, disciplinary action will be taken by Disciplinary Action Committee of the University.

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- The Assam Kaziranga University is using URKUND PDS software to ensure;
 - i. The thesis and publications from thesis free of plagiarism at the time of their submission.
 - ii. Every student submitting a thesis to controller of exam shall submit an undertaking indicating that the document has been prepared by him or her and that the document is his/her original work and free of any plagiarism.
 - d) The undertaking shall include the fact that the document has been duly checked through a Plagiarism detection tool URKUND or any other PDS approved by the university.
 - f) Each supervisor shall submit a certificate indicating that the work done by the researcher under him/her is plagiarism free based on URKUND software.
 - g) University shall submit to INFLIBNET soft copies of all Masters, Research program's dissertations and thesis within a month after the award of degrees for hosting in the digital repository under the "Shodh Ganga e-repository".

University shall impose penalty considering the severity of the Plagiarism (as per UGC Guidelines).

- i. Level 0: Similarities up to 10% - Minor Similarities, no penalty.
- ii. Level 1: Similarities above 10% to 40% - Such student shall be asked to submit a revised script within a stipulated time period not exceeding 6 months.
- iii. Level 2: Similarities above 40% to 60% - Such student shall be debarred from submitting a revised script for a period of one year.
- iv. Level 3: Similarities above 60% -Such student registration for that programme shall be cancelled.

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- Members of the SDPC:

The formation of the SDPC will be initiated by the Supervisor to monitor the progress of each of the research students.

The SDPC shall consist of;

- a. The Supervisor,
- b. Two faculty members/experts of the concerned department/centre in which the research student pursues his/her research work and another member/expert from allied department(s)/centre(s) of the University or from other reputed Institutions.
- c. Supervisor shall be the Chairperson of SDPC.

The minimum number of members of SDPC shall be 4 (four).

- Members of the UDRC:

UDRC is the apex body that administers the research programmes of the University. The Vice-Chancellor of the University shall constitute the committee. The Research Committee shall consist of:

- a. Vice-Chancellor or his /her nominee as Chairperson.
- b. Dean, Research as secretary
- c. Dean of the Schools
- d. Head of concerned Department
- e. One expert from outside the university who is an eminent Professor/Scientist to be nominated by the Vice- Chancellor as a member
- f. Registrar of the university shall act as member



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- In case of any dispute arising out due to disciplinary actions recommended by the Academic Council related to plagiarism or research misconduct the decision of the Vice-Chancellor of The Assam Kaziranga University would be final and binding to all.

4. Definitions

In these regulations, the following terms have been defined, in line with UGC Regulation 2018, below.

- "Academic Integrity" is the intellectual honesty in proposing, performing and reporting any activity, which leads to the creation of intellectual property.
- "Author" includes a student or a faculty or a researcher or staff of The Assam Kaziranga University who claims to be the creator of the work under consideration;
- "Common Knowledge" means a well-known fact, quote, figure or information that is known to most of the people.
- Degree means any such degree specified by The Assam Kaziranga University.
- Student Doctoral Programme Committee (SDPC) is also empowered to investigate allegations of plagiarism
- "Faculty" refers to a person who is teaching and supervising students enrolled in The Assam Kaziranga University.
- "Information" includes data, message, text, images, sound, voice, codes, computer programs software and databases or microfilm or computer-generated microfiche.


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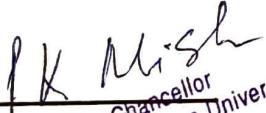

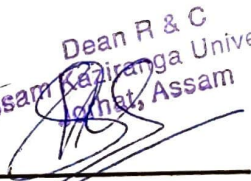
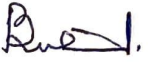





- UDRC shall mean the body constituted at Institutional level to consider recommendations of the SDPC and take appropriate decisions in respect of allegations of plagiarism and decide on action to be taken, except exceptional cases.
- "Plagiarism" means the practice of taking someone else's work or idea and passing them as one's own. Plagiarism involves copying of phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, or longer extracts from published or unpublished work including these from the internet without acknowledgment of the source.
- Programme means a programme of study leading to the award of undergraduate, masters and research level degree.
- "Researcher" refers to any person conducting academic/ scientific research in The Assam Kaziranga University.
- "Document" includes research paper, thesis, dissertation, chapters in books, books and any other similar work, submitted for assessment/opinion leading to the award of undergraduate master and research level degrees or publication in print or electronic media by students faculty or researcher or staff of The Assam Kaziranga University; however, this shall exclude assignments term papers coursework related materials like class notes, hand-outs, slides and lab manuals, essays and answer scripts/notices/circulars, etc.
- "Source" means the published primary and secondary material from any source whatsoever and includes written information and opinions gained directly from other people, including eminent scholars, public figures and practitioners in any form whatsoever as also data and information in the electronic form like audio, video,

image or text; information being given the same meaning as defined under Section 2 (1) (v) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and reproduced here in Regulation.

- "Staff refers to all non-teaching staff working in The Assam Kaziranga University in any capacity whatsoever i.e., regular, temporary, contractual, outsourced etc.; Student" means a person duly admitted and pursuing a programme of study including a research programme in any mode of study (fulltime or part-time).

5. Reference

1. UGC Regulation 2018 https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/7771545_academic-integrity-Regulation2018.pdf

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