The institution’s policies and procedures call for responsible acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge by its faculty, students and staff.

1. The institution provides effective oversight and support services to ensure the integrity of research and scholarly practice conducted by its faculty, staff, and students.
2. Students are offered guidance in the ethical use of information resources.
3. The institution has and enforces policies on academic honesty and integrity.

Argument

CWRU has established multiple procedures and policies that promote the responsible discovery, acquisition, and application of knowledge.

1. CWRU provides oversight and support to faculty, graduate and professional students, staff, as well as undergraduates who are engaged in research activities. The Vice President for Research provides leadership for the Office of Research and Technology Management which supports CWRU's research enterprise, ranging from identification of funding opportunities to management of the award to technology transfer. Critical to the success of the university’s research activities is the support and training offered through the Research Compliance Office which provides resources and educational opportunities for conducting research on campus. Researchers at all levels are required to receive training in the ethical conduct of research. Training is available for the protection of human subjects, animal care and use, the responsible conduct of research, financial management and clinical research teams. Important information on research policies, processes and procedures is also readily available to researchers. CWRU's research integrity policy is available in the Faculty Handbook and is posted online. The university's Research Integrity Officer is charged with promoting and enforcing these research integrity policies.

The CWRU library system provides support services for the scholarly activities that take place at the university. The Kelvin Smith Library (KSL, CWRU's main library) provides a variety of services to aid faculty and students in conducting research. One of the main purposes of these services is to provide information on proper research practice using library resources. KSL also provides programming on information literacy, assistance to faculty who want to teach students about proper research techniques, and programs for students to learn about scholarly research. The Personal Librarian program enables students to learn about proper research practices through direct and individualized contact between students and library staff. See the library's annual report for an overview of its programs and accomplishments.

2. Students receive information and guidance on the ethical use of information resources in several ways. Acceptable use policies for information technology and library resources are posted online.

When anyone attempts to login to any IT service at CWRU (i.e., email, calendar, Blackboard (learning management system), student information system, etc.), a banner appears to provide a warning that users must adhere to CWRU's Acceptable Use policy.

The university has also developed a comprehensive set of policies on information security and information infrastructure that help guide the institution on the proper and ethical use of IT
resources.

3. Undergraduate students, faculty, and staff are expected to adhere to the undergraduate academic integrity policy. This policy is readily available within the online Student Handbook, and students are introduced to the topic during orientation for new students as well as in seminars and classes. The university’s Academic Integrity Board (which includes student members) exists to enforce the policy. Logs of academic integrity cases are maintained within the Division of Student Affairs and summary statistics are periodically posted online. The Academic Integrity Board holds an annual Integrity Week to highlight the importance of the policy.

Academic integrity standards as well as disciplinary procedures for graduate students are contained within the Faculty Handbook. Academic integrity standards for students in the various professional programs are available within other student handbooks (e.g., those for the School of Nursing and the School of Medicine). Academic integrity policies also appear within the General Bulletin, such as those for the graduate programs of the Weatherhead School of Management.

Sources

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