Research is one of the most valued and essential gateways to innovation and learning. Many disciplines at UTSA are research-based and contribute to learning and development in those areas. Ethical research is important to ensure the success of all avenues of research. UTSA and ORIC support ethical conduct of research in all realms: human subjects, animal subjects, library research, and cultures and societies. This workshop is an effort to promote more knowledge about making ethical decisions in the research process.

Consequences of Unethical Research

When a researcher engages in unethical research practices, various consequences arise due to these actions. Such consequences include:
- Contamination of knowledge and understanding.
- Loss of trust.
- Loss of funding.
- Debarment from future research.
- Harm to reputation.

Ethical Research: An Overview

Ethics in research pertain to how we conduct our research and how we use those results. Ethical research is based upon the following shared values of our society:
- Honesty
- Accuracy
- Efficiency
- Objectivity

Ethical Issues

The types of ethical issues you may face while conducting research vary. These are real-world types of pressures and conflicts that are almost unavoidable. Some conflicts of interest you may face while conducting research are:
- Financial Interest/Financial Pressures
- Time Constraints (pressure to graduate on time)
- Promotion Pressure
- Personal and Professional Relationships

Conflicts of interest are unavoidable, but in order to reduce or even remove the impact it has on research you can attempt to eliminate, disclose, or manage the conflicts.

How Do We Make Ethical Decisions?

We often rely upon a Code of Ethics to guide us in identifying important issues related to ethical research. The primary codes of ethics used in the United States are:
- The Belmont Report
- Declaration of Helsinki
- American Psychological Association
- American Anthropological Association
- Oral History Association

Ethical Conduct for Human Research

The Belmont Report is one of the most commonly used code of ethics for human research. Under this code there are three major principles:
- Respect for Persons
- Beneficence
- Justice

Other Issues to Consider

- Ethical conduct for animal research.
- Ethical conduct for library research.
- Publication issues.
- Authorship issues.
- Failure to publish negative results.
- Underpowering trials.

Why is This Important?

Ethical conduct in research aims to prevent bias in the design, conduct, and analysis of research. By expanding your knowledge about making ethical decisions in the research process, you will promote more respect for your research as well as for the entire research enterprise.