

*Approved by Deans' Council, May 30, 2000*

## **Ethical Principles and Policies for Conducting Research**

Rowan University has adopted the following ethical principles and policies regarding research, research grants, and sponsored projects.

### ***Definitions***

*Researchers* include any faculty, staff member or student who engages in research. If the research for the proposed study involves collecting data from human participants, the researcher will need to prepare a form that describes the plan to protect human subjects from possible harm and submit it to the Rowan Institutional Review Board.

*Subjects* include all human participants in research projects. Subjects of the research must not be exposed to harm, and subjects should give their informed consent to participate in the research.

*Concealment* occurs when a researcher tells the subjects the truth, but not the whole truth.

*Deception* occurs when the researcher deliberately provides the subjects with false information.

### ***Ethical Principles and Policies***

1. Researchers at Rowan University have an ethical obligation to inform subjects of all features of the research that may have an effect on their willingness to participate in a research project.
2. Researchers at Rowan University have an ethical obligation to respect the freedom of subjects to decline participation or to withdraw from participation in research at any time.
3. Researchers at Rowan University have an ethical obligation to honor all commitments and responsibilities that they make to subjects in the research project.
4. Researchers at Rowan University have an ethical obligation to protect subjects from physical or mental discomfort, distress, harm or danger. If there is any risk to the subjects, their written informed consent must be obtained.
5. Researchers at Rowan University have an ethical obligation to protect the anonymity and/or confidentiality of subjects to the extent possible and practical. Researchers at Rowan University will not disclose personally identifiable information that has been collected during the conduct of research projects.
6. Researchers at Rowan University have an ethical obligation to see that their research is methodologically sound and capable of answering the questions it is intended to answer and to deal honestly with data collected as part of the research project.

7. If concealment or deception is necessary as part of the administration of a research project, researchers at Rowan University have an ethical obligation to inform subjects, at the conclusion of the research project, that they have been deceived. Researchers must also explain why concealment and/or deception was necessary to ensure the validity of the research project.

For additional information, contact: Associate Provost for Research