

Researcher Rights, Responsibilities, and Resources

INTRODUCTION and PURPOSE

The following apply to all researchers at the University of South Carolina: faculty, staff, and students. It is the responsibility of all of us to create a community of researchers where members are both teachers and learners. Our community of researchers will foster a respectful environment, where research, scholarly, and creative activities are pursued with the highest respect and ethical considerations.

This document provides an overview of your rights and responsibilities as a researcher at the University of South Carolina. In addition, your safety and security is of utmost importance to us. A number of resources to help ensure you are supported as a student researcher are included below. Still need help? Always feel free to contact the Office of Undergraduate Research at 803-777-1141 or our@sc.edu

RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES

The principles of the Carolinian Creed guide our behavior:

- *I will practice personal and academic integrity.*
- *I will respect the dignity of all persons.*
- *I will respect the rights and property of others.*
- *I will discourage bigotry, while striving to learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions.*
- *I will demonstrate concern for others, their feelings, and their need for conditions which support their work and development.*

RESEARCH ETHICS and INTEGRITY: All research is grounded in an expectation of honesty and integrity. Work is required to follow the policies of the University, federal guidelines for ethical research, and spirit of the [USC Aiken Honor Code](#). All work must be created, obtained, and documented with the upmost integrity, including the citation of proper sources. Any researcher believed to have engaged in any form of research or scholarly dishonesty or unethical behavior, including plagiarism, will be referred to the Office of Academic Integrity and/or Office of the Vice President for Research. If you have questions, it is important to ask. Talk to your mentor or one of the resources provided below.

RESEARCH ETIQUETTE: To ensure an enjoyable, inclusive, and engaging research and learning environment, you are expected to ask questions, openly share your ideas, and express your opinions; respect the opinions, values, and identities of your fellow researchers and mentors; and honor the integrity of the research environment by maintaining confidentiality. You are expected to do your best work, meet deadlines, engage regularly in meetings, discussions and activities, and treat all researchers with courtesy and respect. Learn the behavior appropriate for your research environment including cell phone or laptop use, preferred contact or communication protocols, timeliness (what to do if sick, need to arrive late, leave early, etc.)

RESOURCES – for Aiken

STUDENT OMBUDSMAN: Sometimes, things don't go according to plan for your project and/or academics. A major illness or family emergency requires you to be away. You have a concern, but you're not sure who to tell. Maybe you have a problem you've tried to solve, but you're stumped about what to do next. The undergraduate student ombudsman can help. The student ombudsman can guide you to resources, refer you to programs and explain university processes so that you can solve your problems and make informed choices. Visit the [Office of Ombuds web page](#) to learn more including how to contact the ombudsman.

TITLE IX COORDINATOR: Student researchers who experience harassment or discrimination should contact the University's Title IX Coordinator for Students. The Title IX Coordinator for Students will listen to your concerns, assist you in finding options to resolve your concerns, and refer you to other departments or offices for additional support or mediation as appropriate. For more information, please refer to the Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment & Sexual Misconduct: <https://www.sc.edu/policies/ppm/cr100.pdf>

Ahmed Samaha, Vice Chancellor for Student Life & Services
Student Activities Center, Room 159
(803) 641-3411

UNIVERSITY POLICE: USC Aiken community members have a great resource in the University Police. They provide a host of crime prevention and safety resources, more information found here: <https://www.usca.edu/university-police>

Be sure to take advantage of their police escort services when traveling at night.

PERSONAL WELLNESS:

Your personal wellness can have a significant impact on your success as a student researcher. USC Aiken offers a number of resources to support your wellness and success. Visit <http://www.usca.edu/cc/> to learn more about [stress management](#) and [counseling services](#), among other topics.

Additionally, the [Wellness Center](#) is available for all students, faculty, and staff to support your physical wellbeing.