

POLICY

Issued: April 24, 2004

Revised:

Contacts for questions about this policy, [click here](#)

Georgia State University is dedicated to teaching, research, and the dissemination of knowledge to the public. The University is committed to the principle that research is to be conducted in an open and unrestricted manner with researchers having freedom to publish or otherwise disseminate the results of research in support of the University's mission. The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance for the determination of acceptable restrictions on the openness of research.

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Openness in Research	The principle that research is to be conducted in an open and unrestricted manner with researchers having the freedom to publish or otherwise disseminate the results of research in support of the university's mission.

POLICY DETAILS

- A. The University shall not accept support from any source for research under a grant or contract that would limit the University from disclosing the:
 1. sponsor,
 2. amount of funding,
 3. time period,
 4. title, or
 5. nature of the project or the research results.

- B. The University shall not accept support from any source for research under a grant or contract if the grant or contract prohibits the open publication or dissemination of results within a reasonable period of time. Provision may be made for a short delay in the submittal of papers for publication of research results (normally not to exceed 90 days) for patenting purposes or to allow for sponsor review and comment on manuscripts.

- C. No thesis or dissertation will be accepted for partial fulfillment of degree requirements that cannot be freely published or disseminated, including storage in the University Library. Provision may be made for a short delay in publication and storage in the University Library for the purpose of filing a patent application.

Exceptions

- A. In a program of research involving a living human being, reasonable provisions may be made to protect the rights of the individual to privacy.
- B. In a program of research, the purposes of which would be significantly advanced by access to classified information, the relationship between the classified data and the overall research endeavor must be sufficiently remote so that:
 - 1. a member of the research group who did not hold a security clearance would nevertheless be able to participate fully in all of the intellectually significant portions of the project; and
 - 2. there is no substantial basis for an expectation that any part of the final results of the research, or any but a trivial part of the research processes, will be subject to restriction on publication.
- C. If an outside person or entity has made confidential or proprietary information available to the investigator, provision may be made to preserve confidentiality and/or a short delay in the publication of research results during which time the information source may examine the proposed publication in order to assure that the investigator has not disclosed any portion of the confidential information supplied. Any such provision for delay must contain assurance from the information source that he/she will:
 - 1. conduct the review as expeditiously as possible,
 - 2. not attempt to thwart publication for any reason except to protect confidential information previously supplied, and
 - 3. indicate with specificity a sentence or sentences that he/she contends constitute disclosure of confidential information.
- D. If private papers, documents, diaries or analogous materials have been provided to the investigator, provision may be made to preserve the confidentiality of those materials for the purpose of protecting the individual privacy of the author, the addressee, or the immediate family of either the author or addressee.
- E. In rare cases, the goals and objectives of the University may best be served by waiving parts of this Policy. In such cases, exceptions to this policy can be made with the written approval of the appropriate Department Chair, College/School Dean, and the Vice President for Research.

RESPONSIBILITIES Position or Office	Responsibilities
Dept. Chair	Initiates written approval to waive any portion of this policy for a specific research project and forwards to the College / School Dean for approval.
College / School Dean	Approves or denies any request from a Dept. or Unit in the College / School to waive any portion of this policy; If approved, forwards to the VP for Research & Economic development for final approval

VP for Research & Economic Development	Provides final approval on any request to waive any portion of this policy; Oversees the adherence to this policy throughout the university.
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CONTACTS

Subject	Office	Telephone	Email
Questions about the policy	VP for Research & Economic Development	404-413-3517	jweyhenmeyer@gsu.edu

RESOURCES

[Faculty Handbook 312.02.09](#)