

Augusta University

Policy Library

Authorship of Scholarly Activities

Policy Manager: Sponsored Programs Administration

POLICY STATEMENT

The creation of new knowledge and its dissemination by publication and presentation are essential to the mission of Augusta University. In such scholarly activities, having fair and accurate attribution is essential to the integrity of the University's academic enterprise. All faculty, staff, and students at Augusta University should follow the guidelines within this policy when determining authorship of scholarly activities (e.g., manuscripts, grants, presentations, and electronic communications).

Faculty should be free to publish the results of their research and scholarly work. Graduate students, fellows, and other trainees should be co-authors on scholarly publications resulting from their work, providing they meet the criteria listed in this policy. Individuals who have made contributions to the scholarly work, but do not meet these criteria should be acknowledged in the publication, but not be granted authorship.

All faculty, staff, students, and any others involved in the communication of scholarly activities at Augusta University should read and be aware of this policy.

Standards for authorship vary between disciplines and journals. However, it is important that certain standards for authorship be maintained within an institution. Differences of opinion about authorship are not to be treated as research misconduct when the parties who differ are acting honestly, honorably, and in good faith. Should individuals at Augusta University believe an authorship dispute is rooted in potential misconduct, they should use existing policies and procedures to address such concerns related to potential misconduct. For those who have an honest difference of opinion but who do not believe misconduct is involved, this policy is intended to be a working resource. This policy provides guidelines that should be followed when determining authorship of scholarly activities emanating from Augusta University.

Guest, gift, and ghost authorship are unacceptable and a violation of this policy. See definitions for more information.

AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS

Indicate all entities and persons within the Enterprise that are affected by this policy:

- Alumni Faculty Graduate Students Health Professional Students
 Staff Undergraduate Students Vendors/Contractors Visitors
 Other:

Office of Legal Affairs Use Only

Executive Sponsor: AVP, Sponsored Programs Administration

Next Review: 4/2028

DEFINITIONS

Scholarly activities – products of research and other intellectual pursuits such as manuscripts, grants, presentations, and electronic communications.

Guest authorship – granting authorship out of appreciation or respect for an individual, or in the belief that expert standing of the guest will increase the likelihood of publication, credibility, or status of the work.

Gift authorship – is credit, offered from a sense of obligation, tribute, or dependence, within the context of an anticipated benefit, to an individual who has not contributed to the work.

Ghost authorship – is the failure to identify as an author, someone who made substantial contributions to the research or writing of a manuscript that merited authorship, or an unnamed individual who participated in writing the manuscript. Ghost authorship may range from authors for hire with the understanding that they will not be credited, to major contributors not named as an author. Artificial intelligence (AI) programs used to write manuscripts, is a form of ghostwriting, and is in violation of this policy.

PROCESS & PROCEDURES

The issue of authorship should be discussed early in every collaborative relationship and should be reviewed periodically during the writing process so that ongoing development can be taken into consideration.

Standards for authorship vary between disciplines and between journals. Faculty, staff, and students are expected to conform to the policies stated in each journal's instructions to authors. In the absence of more specific standards, faculty should follow the "Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts," established by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (<http://www.icmje.org>). Of particular importance from those guidelines are the following considerations, excerpted and annotated below:

An **author** is generally considered to be someone who has made substantive intellectual contributions to a published study.

Authorship credit should be based on 1) substantial contributions to conception and design, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data; 2) drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and 3) final approval of the version to be published. Authors should meet conditions 1, 2, and 3.

All persons designated as authors should qualify for authorship, and all those who qualify should be listed.

The group should jointly make decisions about authors before submitting the manuscript for publication. The corresponding author should be prepared to explain the presence and order of these individuals. It is not the role of editors to make authorship decisions or to arbitrate conflicts related to authorship.

Each author should be given the opportunity to see the creative work in an essentially completed form and should give consent to co-authors on scholarly publications resulting from their work, providing they meet the criteria listed above.

Acquisition of funding, collection of data, or general supervision of the research group alone does not constitute a contribution leading to authorship.

The responsibilities each party has in connection with this policy are:

Responsible author(s)	One or more authors should take responsibility for the integrity of the work as a whole. This is usually the Principal Investigator, but might be another individual so designated by the Principal Investigator.
All authors	Should jointly determine order of authorship based on contribution of the individual authors and the practices of the particular field. An explanation of the order of authors should be available. All authors should see the work in completed form. All authors should give consent to authorship.
Academic leadership	Should authors not agree on authorship in a specific situation, they are encouraged to engage their most immediate academic leadership and escalate within the academic leadership as required.
Senior Vice President for Research	If, after working with academic leadership, authors have not reached a mutually acceptable solution, the Senior Vice President for Research should be contacted as a resource. The SVPR, in turn, may consult with academic leadership (e.g., deans, chairs, and center or institute directors), convene an ad hoc committee to review, or take other appropriate action.

REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

International Committee of Medical Journal Editors website: <https://www.icmje.org/>

RELATED POLICIES

[Management and Administration of Sponsored Projects](#)

APPROVED BY:

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Augusta University

Date: 4/24/2023

President, Augusta University

Date: 4/24/2023