

### **Code of Ethics for Research:**

G. Pulla Reddy Engineering College (Autonomous), Kurnool, is a symbol for "Trust, Moral Values and Ethics". GPREC follows these moral values and ethics everywhere be it in the functioning of the college, academics, service to the society, support to the budding entrepreneurs, and most importantly in scientific research. Every individual i.e. faculty, research scholars, project staff, students, strictly follows the code of ethics of research, set by GPREC. The following are the ethical principles that are made to follow by every individual of the college, while undertaking the research:

**Duty to the society:** Researcher and his/her research must contribute to the welfare of society.

**Beneficence:** Researchers should have the welfare of the research participant in mind as a goal and make every effort for the benefits of the research to prevail over the risks.

**Conflict of Interest:** Researchers should minimize financial and other influences on their research and on research participants that could bias research results. Conflict of interest is more frequently directed at the researcher, but it may also involve the research participants if they are provided with a monetary or non-monetary encouragement to take part.

**Informed Consent:** All researchers must voluntarily agree to participate in research, without persuasion from financial gain or other intimidation, and their agreement must include an understanding of the research and the underlying risks in it. When participants are unable to consent or when vulnerable groups are involved in research, specific actions must be taken by researchers and their institutions to protect the partakers.

**Integrity:** Researchers should demonstrate honesty and truthfulness. They should not fabricate data, falsify results, or omit relevant data. They should report findings fully, minimize or eliminate bias in their methods, and disclose underlying assumptions.

**Non-discrimination:** Researchers should minimize attempts to reduce the benefits of research on specific groups and to deny benefits from other groups.

**Non-exploitation:** Researchers should not exploit or take unfair advantage of research participants. Academe's competitive "publish-or-perish" mindset can be a recipe for trouble when it comes to who gets credit for authorship. The best way to avoid disagreements about who should get credit and in what order is to talk about these issues at the beginning of a working relationship, even though many people often feel uncomfortable about such topics.

**Privacy and Confidentiality:**

**Privacy:** Research participants have the right to control access to their personal information. Participants may control how others obtain their information.

**Confidentiality:** Researchers will protect the private information provided by participants from release. Confidentiality is an extension of the concept of privacy; it refers to the participant's understanding of, and agreement to, the ways identifiable information will be stored and shared.

**Professional Competence:** Researchers should engage only in work that they are qualified to perform, while also participating in training and betterment programs with the intent of improving their skill sets. This concept includes how researchers choose research methods, statistical methods, and sample sizes that are appropriate and would not cause misleading results.

**Professional Discipline:** Researchers should engage in ethical research and help other researchers engage in ethical research by propagating ethical behaviors through practice, publishing and communicating, mentoring and teaching, and other activities.

**Note:** Research participant refers to someone with an active role participating in research.

**Ethics Committee:**

**a) Composition:**

The Ethics Committee is appointed by the Academic Council upon nomination by the Principal. The Committee shall be composed of the following members:

- Principal, Chairman
- In-charge of Research & Development Cell, Convener
- Heads of all Departments
- Convener of Institution Innovation Cell

- Two senior faculty members nominated by the Principal

In addition, the Legal advisor and the Chairman of GPREC will act as advisor(s) to the committee. The members' mandate is for three years – renewable. In case of conflict of interests, members of the Ethics Committee shall be temporarily replaced by substitutes nominated by the Principal.

**b) Responsibilities:**

- To provide advice and guidance to the GPREC faculty members, research scholars on all matters pertaining to academic research ethics.
- To advise the Academic Council on compliance with the 'Code of Ethics in academic research of the various academic activities at the GPREC.
- To provide guidance and academic support to students on ethical issues in respect of teaching, research and other academic activities. On an entirely voluntary basis, researchers may ask the Ethics Committee for consultation on ethical aspects of their research.
- To confirm to external parties on behalf of the GPREC compliance with ethical standards in respect of research projects undertaken.
- To advise the Academic Council of any policies that may be required in relation to accepting funds from particular funding agencies, both public and private.
- To act as an investigative/consultative body for any disputed matter concerning research ethics and conduct.