Ensuring Academic Integrity and Transparency in Academic Research: A comprehensive checklist for researchers

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Academic integrity is the foundation upon which the credibility and value of scientific findings are established. Its importance should not be undermined as it ensures fair evaluation based on real research outcomes, promotes intellectual growth and critical thinking, and preserves the reputation and societal impact of research community. Failure to uphold academic integrity compromises the efforts of honest researchers, makes research findings unreliable, and erodes the public's trust in academic institutions.

What is Academic Integrity?

Academic integrity refers to the ethical principles and values that should guide academic work and behaviour. It involves honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility in all aspects of the academic endeavour, including research, teaching, learning, and scholarly communication. It plays a crucial role in maintaining the credibility and



reliability of academic institutions, advancing knowledge, and cultivating an environment of trust, respect, and ethical behaviour within the scientific community.

Ensure that your research follows the highest standards of academic integrity — <u>download our checklist for free</u> and take proactive steps towards ethical research practices!

Tips to Uphold Academic Integrity

1. Al tools do not possess contextual understanding and nuanced approach that humans have. Hence, employ them as assistants, not replacements for human decision-making.

2. Develop a strong understanding of proper citation practices and referencing styles to avoid unintentional plagiarism and academic misconduct.

3. Maintain meticulous records and documentation throughout your research process to ensure the legibility of your work.

4. Seek guidance from mentors, advisors, or institutional resources when faced with ethical dilemmas or concerns.

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