

SCHOLARLY ETHICS AND INTEGRITY REQUIREMENT

A proposal submitted by the
**College of Agriculture and Life Sciences for the Master of Agricultural
and Life Sciences**

The **College of Agriculture and Life Sciences** offers a Master of Agricultural and Life Sciences via the virtual campus. In accordance with the scholarly ethics and integrity requirement mandated by the Virginia Tech Graduate School, the College proposes ALS 5000 – *Academic Integrity and Professionalism in Agricultural and Life Sciences* (proposed) to fulfill the requirement. All students in the online program will be required to take this 1 credit course. Additionally, students will take AEE 5104 – *Research Applications in AEE*, ALS 5214 – *Information Systems and Research in Life Sciences*, or ENT 6004 – *Design and Analysis of Agricultural Experiments* to further explore discipline-specific research ethics as part of the core requirements for the degree program. Below is an overview of the required and optional topics ALS 5000 will cover.

CGSP Resolution Topic	Course Topic	Comments
Required		
1 Plagiarism and other violations of the Graduate Honor Code	➤ Module 1: Graduate Honor System	Introduce students to the GHS at VT, with particular emphasis on implications for online students
2 Proper use of professional conventions in citation of existing research and scholarship, accurate reporting and ownership of findings, and acknowledgement of contributions to the work	➤ Module 2: Ethics in publication	Mechanics of proper citation is covered in courses that fulfill the research requirement for the program. This module includes a discussion of guidelines for determination of authorship (optional topic, see below)
3 Ethical standards in teaching, mentoring, and professional activities	➤ Module 3: Ethical professional conduct	This module will highlight professional contexts that are relevant to students in the program, such as extension, industry, and secondary schools
4 Available avenues for reporting alleged misconduct	➤ Module 5: Taking action	This topic is incorporated into the other modules, with an emphasis on responsibility to act in this module
Optional		
4 Guidelines for maintenance of confidentiality (and, where relevant, anonymity) in research	➤ Module 4: Maintaining confidentiality	Particular emphasis on industry (intellectual property) and reporting (peer review, confidentiality)
5 Guidelines for determination of authorship	➤ Module 2: Ethics in publication	