

Department of Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise (HNFE): Scholarly Ethics and Integrity

Introduction:

In response to CGS&P Resolution 2012-13B to include a scholarly ethics and integrity component in graduate education, the HNFE Graduate Committee has reviewed the university's requirements for ethics training, identified topics appropriate for our graduate students, and developed a plan for meeting these requirements. This plan has been approved by the HNFE faculty. All HNFE graduate students are required to complete human research participant protections training or animal care training, offered either by the VT Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), as part of their graduate research experience; this will serve as the first component of the HNFE plan to meet the ethics requirement.

Additional research ethics and integrity topics will be covered by adding ethics content to a required HNFE graduate course, HNFE 5044 Seminar in Nutrition and Foods (1 credit). Alternative options for completing these research ethics and integrity topics requirements will be available to MS and PhD students if they cannot complete HNFE 5044, through the following course: ALS 5324 Research Ethics in Agriculture and Life Sciences (1 credit).

Additional teaching ethics/ academic integrity requirements will be covered by GRAD 5014 Academic Integrity and Plagiarism (1 credit) *and either* the GRAD 5004 GTA workshop (1 credit; required for students on a Graduate Teaching Assistant) *or* through a required 1.5 hour session during the HNFE graduate student orientation (for all other students not on a Graduate Teaching Assistant).

Certificates of completion will be kept in the graduate student's electronic file.

- A. Completion of the human research participant protections training or animal care training, offered either by the VT Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), as part of their graduate research experience; this will serve as the first component of the HNFE plan to meet the ethics requirement.
- B. Completion of the above courses will serve as the second component of the ethics requirement.
- C. Topics required by HNFE:
 1. Plagiarism and other violations of the Graduate Honor Code
 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.
 3. Ethical standards in teaching, mentoring and professional activities
 4. Available avenues for reporting alleged misconduct
 5. Appropriate research protocols involving human rights and animal subjects; Institutional Review Board and/or IACUC certification
 6. Guidelines for determination of authorship

Method of addressing these requirements:

All HNFE graduate students will complete either human research participant protections training offered by the VT IRB, or animal care training, offered by the VT IACUC, during their first year of graduate study. The decision as to which course is taken will be made by the student and the student's graduate advisor. Students will provide a

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certificate of completion of training to the HNFE Graduate Program Coordinator, which are available after successful completion of the online training courses. This addresses topic 5 above. The remaining topics will be addressed as indicated below (please also see the table at the end of the document):

Research Ethics and Integrity (topics 1,2,4,6)

HNFE 5044 Seminar in Nutrition and Foods - Presenters will be the HNFE Graduate Program Director, the Graduate Program Coordinator, and other appropriate faculty. The course will be offered every spring semester.

OR

ALS 5324 Research Ethics in Agriculture and Life Sciences – Offered every fall

Teaching Ethics and Integrity (Topics 1,3,4)

GRAD 5014 Academic Integrity and Plagiarism (online)

AND

GTA workshop (for students on Graduate Teaching Assistantships). Offered every fall and spring

OR

HNFE Fall Orientation Session/ Teaching Ethics, Academic Integrity, and plagiarism (for all other students not on Graduate Teaching Assistantships). Offered every fall during the general HNFE graduate student orientation. Presenters will be the HNFE Graduate Program Director, the Graduate Program Coordinator, and other appropriate faculty. Materials provided by the VT Research Integrity Office will be utilized to address these topics.

All HNFE graduate students entering the program during or after the Fall of 2014 will be required to meet these requirements. The above courses and the IRB or IACUC training will be listed on all Students' Plan of Study, and verified at final exam time by the Graduate School, prior to graduation.

	Requirement	Offered By	Alternative
1	Human research participant protections training or animal care training	VT IRB OR VT IACUC	None
2	Teaching Ethics/ Academic Integrity	1.5- hour session in Graduate Orientation Offered every Fall (Non TAs) OR GRAD 5004 GTA Training Workshop (TAs)	None
3	Teaching Ethics/ Academic Integrity	GRAD 5014 Academic Integrity and Plagiarism	None
4	Research Ethics and Integrity	HNFE 5044 Seminar in Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise	ALS 5324 Research Ethics in Agriculture and Life Sciences