

Department of Mining and Minerals Engineering

Introduction

In response to CGS&P Resolution 2012-13B, "Scholarly Ethics and Integrity Component in Graduate Education", the faculty of the Department of Mining and Minerals Engineering (MinE) have developed a plan to address and implement required content for the graduate program. Included in this plan are required in-class and on-line courses.

Topics

Graduate students within the Department of Mining and Minerals Engineering will receive instruction in six areas of ethics education. The first four topics are identical to the list of Required Topics in CGS&P Resolution 2012-13B:

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

The two addition topics, which are derived from the list of Optional Topics, are:

5. Appropriate lab procedures and maintenance of lab notebooks and other research documentation
6. Fair use of publications, software and equipment

Implementation

In-Class Lectures/Discussion

The six ethics topics listed above will be covered in the required Seminar course (MinE 5944). The faculty assigned as course instructor for MinE 5994 will be responsible for ensuring that the requisite number of lecture presentations have been dedicated to cover the required topics. On an annual basis, electronic copies of these lecture materials will be provided to the departmental Graduate Program Chair for review, comment and archiving.

One of the required ethics assignments in MinE 5944 will be the NSF Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) requirement as implemented at Virginia Tech. Completing the on-line course created and maintained by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) satisfies this requirement. Upon the completion of this course, students are awarded a certificate of completion. This certification must be submitted to the Graduate Program Coordinator within the first semester of graduate student enrollment in the department. The certificate will be recorded in the student's record.

Compliance

All graduate students receiving a graduate degree in Mining and Minerals Engineering will include at least one semester of MinE 5944 on their individual Plan of Study. The departmental Graduate Program Coordinator will ensure that this course is included on the approved Plan of Study for every graduate student enrolled in the department.

Monitoring, Review and Continuous Improvement

Within the first two weeks of the Spring semester, the departmental Graduate Program Director will convene the departmental Graduate Committee to review implementation of the ethics instructional/training plan. Prior to the end of the Spring semester, the committee will prepare and submit a written report to the Department Head stating whether any modifications are deemed necessary.

Implementation Date

Following approval by the Graduate School, the Department of Mining and Minerals Engineering will implement this plan beginning in August 2014.