

Support for Research, Scholarly Activity, and Scholarship	
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Policy Administrator: Associate Vice President, Teaching, Learning, and Research	Review Period: 5 Years
Recommended by: Deans' Council	
Associated Documents Research Grant Management Procedure Contracts for Research, Scholarly Activity, and Scholarship Procedure General Research Fund Procedure (<i>under development</i>) Research Centres Procedure (<i>under development</i>)	

PURPOSE

To identify the role of the College in supporting research, scholarly activity, and scholarship, and to specify the authority and responsibility for these activities at the College.

SCOPE

This policy, which forms part of the College’s scholarship plan, governs research, scholarly activity, and scholarship undertaken by members of the College community including but not limited to, faculty, staff, students, visitors, volunteers, third-party contractors and guests, either alone or in collaboration with other post-secondary institutions, business, industry and not-for-profit sectors and local communities.

POLICY

1. In alignment with the Government of Canada’s [Institutional Eligibility Requirements](#), the College recognizes “the vital importance of research, the new knowledge and applications that it creates, the knowledgeable and skilled human resources developed through the process of conducting research, as well as the importance of peer review, which ensures that funded research meets the highest standards of excellence”.
2. Fostering innovation and providing opportunities for the College’s faculty, staff, students, and collaborators in business, industry, and the community to participate in research, scholarly activity, and scholarship is an important function of the College as per the *Alberta Post-Secondary Learning Act*.
3. The College values research, scholarly activity, and scholarship opportunities, either alone or collaboratively, in all four domains of Boyer’s model, especially those that

- a. enhance teaching and learning processes;
 - b. enrich undergraduate education;
 - c. engage College faculty, staff, and students;
 - d. provide opportunities for experiential learning;
 - e. contribute to program relevance; and
 - f. contribute to the economic, social, and cultural well-being and development of communities.
4. The College supports the principles of academic freedom of its faculty and students.
5. The College is committed to and encourages equity, diversity, and inclusion in research, scholarly activity, and scholarship in alignment with the [Government of Canada's Dimensions Charter](#).
6. The College provides a suitable environment for research, scholarly activity, and scholarship and supports its faculty, staff, and students through the provision of administrative infrastructure, physical facilities, and recognition of these activities through workload and appropriate inclusion in curricula. Support may include, but is not limited to, Library Information Common resources and services, Information Technology resources and services, printing services, project-specific equipment and consumables, and recognition programs.
7. The College recognizes the work associated with research, scholarly activity, and scholarship and may consider such activities as workload that can be assigned to faculty and/or staff and pro-rated relative to the normal workload associated with those individuals. While financial support for such activities will be primarily from external sources, the College maintains a reasonable level of support without significantly impacting its ongoing and primary focus on teaching and learning.
8. The College assigns responsibility for the oversight and coordination of research, scholarly activity, and scholarship to the Vice President, Academic and Research. The following bodies at RDC support the Vice President, Academic and Research in carrying out this responsibility:
 - a. Office of Research and Scholarship;
 - b. Research Ethics Board;
 - c. Research Common;
 - d. Research and Scholarship Committee;
 - e. Recognition of Scholarly Activity Committee;
 - f. Professional Development Committee;
 - g. Recognized Research Centres.
9. All research, scholarly activity, and scholarship conducted at the College or by a member of the College community must be done in accordance with the Integrity in Research, Scholarly Activity, and Scholarship policy, the *Tri-Agency Framework for Responsible Conduct in Research*, as well as all other Tri-Council policies, any applicable laws, disciplinary ethics and professional standards. Any such research and scholarly activity that involves humans or animals must receive ethical approvals as specified in the Research Involving Humans and Research Involving Animals policies.

10. Students may have a significant role in research and scholarly activity. Faculty members are encouraged to include relevant research and research skills in their classes and to include students in their scholarly activity programs. Such opportunities may include independent study projects, community service learning projects, and capstone courses.
11. The College provides the infrastructure for reporting and accountability required by research projects and funding agencies through its Research Grant Management Procedure and in accordance with the following:
 - a. *Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration*;
 - b. *Agreement on the Administration of Agency Grants and Awards by Research Institutions*;
 - c. other Agency, sponsor, and grant-specific policies, agreements, and guidelines.
12. The College, under its General Research Fund Procedure, maintains accounts to carry forward any residual Tri-Council grant funds from prior years to be held in trust for the relevant funding agency. Such funds are used to enhance the quality of research at the College.
13. The College, under its Contracts for Research, Scholarly Activity, and Scholarship Procedure, accepts research, scholarly activity, and innovation contracts that are
 - a. consistent with the College's teaching, research, and public service mandates, for which the required expertise, facilities, and services are available;
 - b. of overall benefit to the College, providing it with
 - i. resources, research equipment, or facilities not otherwise available from College funds;
 - ii. academic benefits to staff; or
 - iii. educational opportunities for students extra to normal programs.

RELATED POLICIES

- [Academic Freedom](#)
- [Intellectual Property](#)
- Integrity in Research, Scholarly Activity, and Scholarship
- [Research Involving Humans](#)
- [Research Involving Animals](#)
- Research, Scholarly Activity, and Scholarship
- [Student Intellectual Property](#)