



STUDENT HONOR CODE

The objective of the Doctoral Program is to provide Students with a high-quality education and prepare them for research careers in academia or industry. A core aspect of scientific work is maintaining scientific integrity, first as a Student, and later as a researcher. In science and academia, scientific misconduct harms the entire community and may even set back scientific work in extreme cases such as data fabrication. It is with this in mind that we have set forth our ethical code: an Honor Code at the Cognitive and Brain Sciences Doctoral Program that is meant to guide you through your responsibilities as Students and practicing scientists. The Honor Code provides guidance and information regarding the expectations of Students and staff in our Doctoral Program and complements, but does not replace, the University of Trento ethics regulations¹.

The Honor Code at the CBS Doctoral Program aims at cultivating a community based on trust, academic integrity and honor. It specifically aims at accomplishing the following:

- ensure that Students, faculty and administrators understand that the responsibility for upholding academic honesty at CBS Doctoral Program lies with them;
- prevent Students from gaining an unfair advantage over others through academic misconduct;
- ensure that Students understand that academic dishonesty is a violation of trust: the trust of the academic and non-academic community in the results, and, ultimately, of the tax-payers who fund our research;
- cultivate an environment at the CBS Doctoral Program where academic dishonesty is not tolerated among the Students.

1. Honesty

Honesty with others and the CBS Doctoral Program in regard to both academic and non-academic issues is fundamental in creating and maintaining a good environment at the CBS Doctoral Program. The standard that should guide the Students is whether their conduct is morally just.

2. Lying, Deception, and Fraud

Any attempt to gain an advantage or to avoid a consequence by lying, deception or fraud is not acceptable behavior at the CBS Doctoral Program.

Examples of lying, deception, and fraud include falsifying records of time and attendance at work, providing false information to a CBS Doctoral Program official, and failing to take responsibility for personal conduct.

3. Scientific misconduct: Plagiarism / Fabrication / Falsification

Scientific misconduct will not be tolerated and can lead to expulsion from the program.

Plagiarism: The way in which Students communicate their ideas reflects their writing and analytic ability. For this reason, Students are expected to communicate their ideas using their own phrasings, and attribute any prior ideas or language to their source. Verbatim citations from written or online resources should be enclosed in quotation marks and accompanied by an accurate citation. Do not make minor changes or word substitutions to prior written work in an attempt to avoid citing it. If you are unclear on

¹ <http://www.unitn.it/norme-regolamenti/2099/codice-etico-e-codice-di-comportamento> (Italian only)



how to cite a particular resource, consult your faculty Tutor or use the American Psychological Association format.

Copying text from your own prior work (or your Tutor's) is considered self-plagiarism. Although often considered less blameworthy than other forms of plagiarism, self-plagiarism is nonetheless a form of scientific misconduct.

You should cite any prior source that directly influences your scientific treatment of the topic in question. This includes research design, code, analytic strategies or more general ideas. Failing to cite or properly attribute ideas to their source results in a misrepresentation of the Student's intellectual or writing ability. When citing primary sources based on reading of secondary sources such as chapters or review articles, you should make clear that the primary materials were not directly evaluated.

Fabrication and Falsification. Data fabrication involves any form of creating data sets or adding data to existing ones. This is an extreme form of scientific misconduct and will not be tolerated. "Findings" reported from fabricated data cannot be replicated and result in wasted time and resources within the scientific community. Data falsification is any attempt to alter existing data including modifications of means or variances. Students should not invent, alter or delete data collected. Students must maintain records of all original data and share them with their Tutor. Procedures for data filtering (e.g., outlier removal or discarding participants) should be consulted on and approved by the faculty Tutor. In particular "P-hacking" should be avoided: null results are a frequent outcome in scientific studies, and Students should not aim to analyse their data to the point they obtain a "significant" ($p < .05$) result. Similarly, when multiple analysis strategies exist, whether or not a strategy results in a significant result should not be considered a factor in selection of an analysis to report. Students should consider reporting null or statistically marginal findings, as they are essential to future meta-analyses and for the assessment of the research project as a whole. While you are responsible for your work, you should consult with your Tutor on such issues; they are the ones bearing the final responsibility for the communicated work and have the last word on these.

Any misrepresentation of others' work as if it was the Student's own (i.e., plagiarism) or instances of data fabrication or manipulation will be referred to the Executive Committee for disciplinary action.

4. Discrimination, sexual harassment and other inappropriate behavior

Discrimination, sexual harassment and other inappropriate behavior, as deemed such by the Doctoral Program Committee, is contrary to the University's ethical regulations and is considered as a violation. Serious violations will be reported to the police. Should you feel you are a victim of any inappropriate behaviour, you can contact the Confidential Counsellor (Consigliera di Fiducia), a lawyer appointed by UniTN to offer counselling to manage issues of discrimination, mobbing or sexual harassment within the work environment. <https://www.unitn.it/en/servizi/1716/the-universitys-confidential-counsellor-for-cases-of-mobbing-harassment-discrimination>

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5. Respect Others

Every person has a fundamental right to be treated with respect. Every member of the CBS Doctoral Program is expected to treat others in a way that will foster to the well-being of everyone at the CBS Doctoral Program and in the community. Advancing in the PhD program via scientific misconduct (as described in section 3) is ethically wrong and also results in a skewed allocation of resource (extension, prizes etc.) and harms one's peers. For this reason, if you know of any of the school's Student who engages in misconduct you should consider raising this issue with them.

6. Disciplinary Measures

Serious violations will be treated as follows:

The Students and his/her Tutor will be asked for an explanation of the events by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee decides whether or not to admonish the Student or to refer the case to the Doctoral School Committee recommending expulsion.

The Doctoral School Committee reserves the right to expel a Student, even immediately.