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## Publication of Research Policy

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### Department Policy Number

### Effective Date

September 25, 2002

### Purpose

Athabasca University supports the principles of academic freedom and free access to the results of University research. Therefore, University research which is pursued under conditions that restrict publication, either in terms of content or beyond the limits specified in this policy, is not compatible with University policy.

### Definitions

**Dissemination**                      Making information publicly available.

**Publication**                         Making information publicly available in a reproducible form.

### Policy

#### 1. Publication of Sponsored Research

##### General

- I. Since the dissemination of research results is a primary function of Athabasca University, all sponsored research grants and contracts administered by the University shall be such that results obtained may be freely published, subject only to Sections 2.0 (Confidentiality) and 3.0 (Deferment of Publication), below.
- II. Acknowledgment of financial support by the sponsor shall normally be made in all publications.

#### 2. Confidentiality

- I. The University may accept a contract for research involving confidential data, provided that the results of the research may be published in a form that preserves the confidentiality of the data. Policy relating to the confidentiality of human subjects is set out in the University's [Policy on Research Involving Humans](#).



### 3. Deferment of Publication

- I. The University expects that research results will normally be published without any time restriction. However, sponsors of research grants or contracts may request or require delays in publication of research results for a period of no more than 12 months from the date of submission of the final report to the sponsor. Delays in publication at the request of a sponsor are permissible only if the public interest is best served by such delays, or if patent or similar protection is being sought.
- II. Exceptions to the 12-month limit must be approved by the Associate Vice-President, Research and reported to Athabasca University Academic Council annually. Such deferment shall not exceed 24 months.
- III. No restriction shall prohibit or delay the use of research results by students for theses or for other academic requirements of their programs.

#### **Regulation**

#### **Procedure**

N/A

#### **Approved By**

Athabasca University Academic Council, Motion 172-7; September 25, 2002.

#### **Amended Date/Motion No.**

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#### **Related References, Policies and Procedures**

##### [Access to Information](#)

Information Technology Usage

##### [Conflict of Interest in Research](#)

Copyright

Fraud and Misconduct in Academic Research and Scholarly Activities

##### [Protection of Privacy](#)

##### [Student Confidentiality](#)

Research Involving Humans

#### **Applicable Legislation/Regulation**

Post-Secondary Learning Act, S.A. 2003, c. P 19.5

Privacy Act 1980-81-82-83, C.III Sch.II "1" (Federal Legislation)

Access to Information Act 1980-81-82-83, C.III Sch.I "1" (Federal Legislation)



Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter F-25, with amendments in force as of January 1, 2002)

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Regulation (Alberta Regulation 200/95, with amendments up to and including Alberta Regulation 251/2001)

Copyright Act (R.S. 1985, c C-42; Federal Legislation)

Patent Act (RS 1985, c P-4; Federal Legislation)

**Responsible Position/Department**

Associate Vice-President, Research

**Keywords**

Publication, dissemination, research publication, data, research results, confidentiality, privacy, human subjects, deferment, patent.