CODE OF ETHICS

A. Academic Freedom, Integrity and Responsibility

Academic freedom is the freedom to teach study and pursue knowledge and research without unreasonable interference or restriction from law, institutional regulations. Its basic elements include the freedom of scholars to inquire into any subject that evokes intellectual concern, to present findings, to publish data and conclusions without control or censorship and to teach in the manner they consider professionally appropriate.

1. Academic integrity requires that academic research follows elevated professional standards, including appropriate research design and frameworks, adheres to high levels of research ethics and abides by the requirements set out by professional and regulatory research guidance and research ethics frameworks issued in appropriate areas by the regulatory bodies like AICTE, Anna University and others

2. Academic integrity is defined in terms of the commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, legality and dissemination.

(i) Honesty: An academic community should advance the quest for truth, knowledge, scholarship and understanding by requiring intellectual and personal honesty in learning, teaching and research.

(ii) Trust: An academic community should foster a climate of mutual trust to encourage the free exchange of ideas and enable all to reach their highest potential.

(iii) Fairness: An academic community should seek to ensure fairness in institutional standards, practices and procedures as well as fairness in interactions between members of the community.

(iv) Respect: An academic community should promote respect among students, staff and faculty: respect for self, for others, for scholarship and research, for the educational process and intellectual heritage, with any discrimination to gender, caste, race and religion.

(v) Responsibility: An academic community should uphold high standards of conduct in learning, teaching and research by requiring shared responsibility for promoting academic integrity among all members of the community.

(vi) Legality: An academic community should observe valid legal norms related to the conduct and publication of research particularly in relations to copyright, the intellectual property rights of third parties, the terms and conditions regulating access to research resources and the laws of the state and country.

(vii) Communication: An academic community should seek to make the results of its research as widely and as freely available as possible.

B. Institutional Responsibilities

The College Governing Council, Principal, Heads of Departments, Research Supervisors, Librarian, together with the faculty members, are responsible for promoting and endorsing a transparent academic environment conducive to the application of the high professional and ethical practice for academic research.

The Heads of Departments and Professors are expected to create and sustain a climate of mutual co-operation that facilitates the open exchange of ideas and the development of academics and research skills. They are also expected to ensure the provision of appropriate supervision and direction for researchers, in accordance with the nature of the individual academic discipline and associated mode of research. Syed Ammal Engineering College is committed to the provision of appropriate direction of research and supervision for researchers. Supervisors are expected to adhere to the Code of Practice for Doctoral Supervision of the affiliating university, which delineates the supervisory relationship, the assessment of research progress, and the procedures to resolve problems in the supervisory relationship.

C. Training

The Academic Departments should ensure that all researchers undertake appropriate training in research design, methodology, regulatory and ethics approvals and consents, equipment use, confidentiality, data management, record keeping, data protection and publication, the appropriate use of licensed research resources and respect for the intellectual property rights of third parties. The Institute is also committed to preparing its administrative and support staff involved in record keeping and the implementation of Syed Ammal Engineering College Data Protection Policy and expects them to fully respect the principles and rules of the Code of Ethics in Academic Research.

D. Publication Practice and Authorship, Notification, Archiving and Depositing Copies of Research Publications with the Institutional Repository (IR)

Syed Ammal Engineering College encourages the publication and dissemination of results of high quality research. It also expects that researchers will engage in the process of publishing and dissemination of their work responsibly and with an awareness of the consequences of any such dissemination in the wider media. Results should be published in a form appropriate to the academic discipline. The Institute requires that all individuals listed as authors accept responsibility for the contents of their publication and can identify their contribution to it. Authors should have participated sufficiently in the research to take public responsibility for the content. The Anna university has given access to a plagiarism check software "Urkund" for its Recognized Research Supervisors. All the Ph.D theses and research articles related to Ph.D degree are checked for Plagiarism at https://www.urkund.com/ and then processed for degree.

E. Research Conduct Rules by Anna University

Research Ethics:

All individuals conducting research in connection with the University should incorporate appropriate consideration of ethical issues into the design and management of projects

1.1.2 Research involving interaction with environmental issues, human subjects or communities should be informed by context specific ethical practice. Scholars must respect the human rights and dignities of all those involved in any inquiry project and must appropriately address questions of consent, power relations, deception, confidentiality and privacy. In particular, scholars must address a range of complex issues around developing and maintaining respectful and ethical relationships with research partners based on mutual respect for academic traditions and institutional circumstances. Information and/or complaints regarding the above issues, shall be referred to the committee constituted by the Vice-Chancellor for necessary action.

1.2 At the time of admission, each scholar must give an undertaking that he/she abide by the regulations.

1.3 Misconduct in research:
1.3.1 Falsification, fabrication, or dishonesty in creating or reporting laboratory results, research results, and/or any other assignments; Sexual harassment of other scholars; Contacting the examiner about thesis evaluation are the mode for misconduct.
1.3.2 Submitting plagiarized work for an academic requirement. Plagiarism means representation of another's work or ideas as one's own; it includes the unacknowledged word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas.

1.3.3 Submitting substantially the same work to satisfy requirements for one course or academic requirement that has been submitted in satisfaction of requirements for another course or academic requirement without permission of the instructor of the course for which the work is being submitted or supervising authority for the academic requirement. 1.3.4 All complaints related to research activities or any matters relating to differences among scholars or complaints about the supervisor or seeking of any information related to research shall be addressed to the Director (Research). Only in the absence of any response, alternate measures shall be sought.

1.4 Any scholar exhibiting misconduct, their registration will be cancelled. Such a scholar will not be eligible for readmission to any of the courses of this University. Further, if such scholar receives any fellowship from the University, it will be withdrawn and the fellowship has to be refunded from the date of the last award. Vice-Chancellor shall be the ultimate authority in imposing disciplinary actions against the scholars for acts of prohibited behaviour.

1.5 Right to Appeal

1.5.1 The scholar/scholars aggrieved by the action of any authority of the University can appeal to the Director (Research) and any scholar aggrieved by the action of the Director (Research) can appeal to the Registrar and then to Vice-Chancellor. The decision of the Vice-Chancellor shall be final and binding on the scholars.

1.5.2 The scholar shall seek legal remedy about any matter with prior notice and only after their representations to the higher authorities have been negative.

1.6 If Supervisors are found to indulge in any of following acts, based on the severity of the complaint, the supervisorship will be cancelled for a specific duration and disciplinary action will be taken.

i. Exploiting the services of the scholar for completing the academic tasks assigned to an individual.

ii. Any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on the scholar.

iii. Any act of sexual abuse or abuse by spoken words, phone calls, short message service (sms) through mobile, emails, posts, public insult leading to the discomfort to the scholar.

1.7 For Supervisors under suspension/ undergoing any disciplinary proceedings of the University, Supervisor-in-charge should be nominated by the Director (Research) based on the request of the Supervisor and / or the recommendation of the Head of the Department of the Supervisor. The Supervisor-in-charge shall function up to one year or till Supervisor resumes duty. However if the supervisor continues under suspension/ undergoing any disciplinary proceedings of the University for more than one year alternate supervisor shall be nominated by the Director (Research) based on the request of the Supervisor-in-Charge and the recommendation of the Head of the Department.

E. Misconduct in Academic Research

Misconduct in academic research implies (and is not limited to) fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or deception in proposing, carrying out or reporting results of research and deliberate, dangerous or negligent deviations from accepted practice in carrying out research. It includes failure to follow an agreed protocol if and when this failure results in unreasonable risk or harm to persons, the environment, and when it facilitates misconduct in research by collusion in, or concealment of, such actions by others. Misconduct also includes any plan or attempt to do any of these things. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretation or judgment in evaluating research methods or results, or misconduct unrelated to research processes.

Misconduct includes (and is not limited to) the following activities:

(i)   Plagiarism: The deliberate copying of ideas, text, data or other work (or any combination thereof) without due permission and acknowledgement.

(ii)   Piracy: The deliberate exploitation of ideas from others without proper acknowledgement

(iii)   Abuse of Intellectual Property Rights: Failure to observe legal norms regarding copyright and the moral rights of authors.

(iv)   Abuse of Research Resources: Failure to observe the terms and conditions of institutionally licensed research resources.

(v)   Defamation: Failure to observe relevant legal norms governing libel and slander.

(vi)   Misinterpretation: The deliberate attempt to represent falsely or unfairly the ideas or work of others, whether or not for personal gain or enhancement.

(vii)   Personation : The situation where someone other than the person who has submitted any academic work has prepared (parts of) the work.

(viii) Fabrication and Fraud: The falsification or invention of qualifications, data, information or citations in any formal academic exercise.

(ix)   Sabotage: Acting to prevent others from completing their work. This includes stealing or cutting pages out of library books or otherwise damaging them; or willfully disrupting the experiments of others; or endangering institutional access to licensed research resources by willfully failing to observe their terms and conditions.

(x)   Professorial misconduct: Professorial acts those are arbitrary, biased or exploitative. Denying access to information or material: To deny others access arbitrarily to scholarly resources or to deliberately and groundlessly impede their progress.

(xi)   Misconduct in formal examinations: Includes having access, or attempting to gain access during an examination, to any books, memoranda, notes, unauthorized electronic devices or any other material, except such as may have been supplied by the invigilator or authorized by the academic department. It also includes aiding or attempting to aid another candidate or obtaining or attempting to obtain aid from another candidate or any other communication and conversations that could have an impact on the examination results.

F. Mechanism for detecting plagiarism

By using online plagiarism checking tools such as;
1. https://smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker/

2. https://www.prepostseo.com/plagiarism- checker

3. http://plagiarisma.net/

4. https://www.urkund.com/

(Urkund software is offered by Anna University for approved research supervisors)