PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

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1. PREAMBLE

GMR Institute of Technology (GMRIT) – Deemed to be University (hereinafter referred to as GMRITDU) is committed to promoting excellence in teaching, learning, research, innovation and scholarly communication through the highest standards of academic integrity and ethical conduct. The University recognizes that originality, honesty, transparency and accountability are fundamental principles that underpin quality education and research. Academic misconduct, including plagiarism, falsification of data, duplicate publication, inappropriate authorship and unethical use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-assisted writing tools, undermines the credibility of research and the reputation of both the individual and the institution. Therefore, GMRITDU adopts a zero-tolerance approach towards plagiarism while ensuring a fair, transparent and educative process for its prevention and management. This policy is framed in accordance with the UGC Regulations, as amended from time to time, and shall apply to all academic and research activities undertaken at GMRITDU.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a comprehensive institutional framework to promote academic integrity, prevent plagiarism, safeguard intellectual property and ensure that all scholarly work produced under the aegis of GMRITDU meets the highest ethical and professional standards.

The policy aims to:

- Promote originality and responsible research practices.
- Foster a culture of ethical writing and publication.
- Prevent plagiarism through awareness, education and mandatory similarity screening.
- Ensure compliance with UGC regulations and other statutory guidelines.
- Establish transparent procedures for investigating allegations of plagiarism.
- Protect the intellectual contributions of faculty members, researchers, students and collaborators.
- Enhance the national and international reputation of GMRITDU as a research-intensive university.

3. SCOPE

This policy shall apply to all members of the University involved in academic and research activities, including: Faculty members, Research scholars, Postdoctoral fellows, Undergraduate and postgraduate students, Project staff, Visiting and Adjunct Faculty, Research Associates, Consultants, Collaborating researchers and any individual submitting academic or research work through GMRITDU. The policy covers all scholarly outputs, including but not limited to Ph.D. theses and synopsis, Master's dissertations, UG & PG project reports, Research articles, Conference papers, Books and book chapters, Patents and technical disclosures, Consultancy reports, Funded project reports, Teaching-learning materials, Research proposals and Digital publications and institutional repository submissions.

4. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity refers to the commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and accountability in all academic and research activities. Every member of the University shall ensure that scholarly work is original, properly acknowledges the contributions of others, and complies with accepted ethical standards.

The University expects every researcher to:

- Produce original scholarly work
- Cite all sources appropriately
- Obtain necessary permissions for copyrighted materials
- Avoid fabrication, falsification and misrepresentation of research data
- Follow accepted authorship practices
- Disclose conflicts of interest wherever applicable
- Use AI tools responsibly and transparently, without presenting AI-generated content as original intellectual work

5. PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas, words, figures, data, images, computer programs or intellectual work as one's own without proper acknowledgment. It includes direct copying, paraphrasing without attribution, patchwork plagiarism, self-plagiarism, duplicate publication and unauthorized reuse of published material. All research outputs submitted through GMRITDU shall undergo plagiarism screening using University-approved similarity detection software (Turnitin) prior to submission or publication. Similarity reports shall be interpreted in accordance with the exclusions and thresholds prescribed by the UGC Regulations.

6. INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM

To implement this policy, GMRITDU shall establish a Plagiarism & Academic Integrity Cell (PAIC) constituted by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of GMRITDU under the R&D Cell. The following are the members of PAIC:

Member/Designation	Role
Dean-R&D	Chairman
Dean-Academics	Member
Deans of Schools	Member
CoE	Member
Head-IQAC	Member
PAIC Coordinator	Member Secretary

The Cell shall be responsible for:

- Promoting awareness on academic integrity
- Conducting plagiarism screening
- Reviewing similarity reports
- Investigating allegations of plagiarism
- Recommending appropriate actions to the competent authority
- Organizing training programmes on research ethics, citation practices, reference management, and responsible use of AI-assisted writing tools
- Maintaining institutional records relating to plagiarism cases and compliance

The Cell shall work in close coordination with the Central Library, IQAC, Research Ethics Committee, Controller of Examinations and Department R&D Committees.

7. SIMILARITY ASSESSMENT AND ACTION

All theses, dissertations, research papers, conference manuscripts, books, consultancy reports and other scholarly documents shall be screened using University-approved plagiarism detection software before submission. The assessment of similarity shall be carried out in accordance with the UGC Regulations, including permissible exclusions such as references, bibliography, quotations, standard methodology, and other accepted exclusions. Where plagiarism is established, the University shall take appropriate action based on the severity of the misconduct and in accordance with the applicable UGC Regulations and University disciplinary procedures. Every individual accused of plagiarism shall be provided with an opportunity to present their explanation before a final decision is taken.

(a) Levels of Plagiarism

Level	Similarity Index	Description
Level 0	Up to 10%	Minor similarities (no penalty)
Level 1	Above 10%–40%	Moderate plagiarism
Level 2	Above 40%–60%	Major plagiarism
Level 3	Above 60%	Severe plagiarism

(b) Penalties for Theses and Dissertations

Similarity Level	Penalty
Level 0	No penalty
Level 1	Must submit a revised script within a period not exceeding six months
Level 2	Student is debarred from submitting a revised script for one year
Level 3	Registration for the programme is cancelled

(c) Penalties for Academic and Research Publications

Similarity Level	Penalty
Level 0	No penalty
Level 1	Withdrawal of the manuscript.
Level 2	• Withdrawal of the manuscript • Shall be denied a right to one annual increment • Prohibition from supervising new Master's/M.Phil./Ph.D. scholars for two years.
Level 3	• Withdrawal of the manuscript • Shall be denied a right to two successive annual increments. • Prohibition from supervising new Master's/M.Phil./Ph.D. scholars for three years.

8. RESPONSIBILITIES

Every stakeholder has a responsibility to uphold academic integrity. Faculty members shall educate students on ethical writing practices, ensure originality in their own publications and mentor research scholars in responsible conduct of research. Research scholars and students shall submit only original work, properly acknowledge all sources, maintain accurate research records, and comply with University guidelines relating to plagiarism and publication ethics. Heads of Departments and Research Supervisors shall ensure that all research outputs are screened for plagiarism before submission and that corrective measures are taken wherever required. The office of Dean-R&D shall oversee the implementation of this policy and submit periodic reports on academic integrity to the Academic Council.

9. AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

GMRITDU recognizes that prevention is more effective than punitive action. Accordingly, the University shall conduct regular awareness programmes, workshops, faculty development programmes, and training sessions on:

- Academic Integrity
- Responsible Conduct of Research
- Citation and Referencing
- Reference Management Software
- Publication Ethics
- Copyright and Intellectual Property
- Responsible Use of AI in Research
- Research Data Management

All newly admitted research scholars and newly recruited faculty members shall undergo mandatory orientation on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Prevention.

10. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

This policy shall be reviewed periodically by the office of the Dean-R&D in consultation with the Plagiarism & Academic Integrity Cell to ensure continued alignment with UGC Regulations, national policies, emerging technologies and international best practices. Any amendments shall be subject to the approval of the Academic Council of GMRIT Deemed to be University.



Registrar