

Auburn University Research Data Policy FAQ

Why does Auburn University need a research data policy?

A comprehensive university research policy provides a uniform standard for research data management across all units, clarifies the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in research, and supports investigators in meeting the data management requirements of funding and compliance agencies. Most R1-classified research universities have such a policy in place.

What kinds of data does this policy cover?

This policy covers data generated in the course of scholarly research, regardless of discipline, content, or format. It does not cover data obtained for institutional research purposes or otherwise solely internal to Auburn University.

Is this a requirement for all research?

Yes. This research data policy pertains to all scholarly research conducted by Auburn University personnel to help ensure consistent procedures across units.

What about data generated in the course of unfunded or self-funded research?

Data produced through unfunded or self-funded research is still covered by the data policy. Instead of considerations defined by a research sponsor, investigators engaged in such research may have obligations to data providers, research subjects, and other stakeholders. The policy aims to formalize both those requirements and Auburn's capacity to support researchers in meeting them.

Who is responsible for data management policy compliance?

The OVPR will oversee the implementation of Auburn University's research data policy. Although the policy requirements are uniform for all Auburn personnel, compliance monitoring will be decentralized, administered primarily at the college, school, or departmental level.

How does this policy affect my current and future commitments to research sponsors?

The university data policy is designed to assist investigators in meeting commitments to research sponsors. Specific agreements made with research sponsors supersede the more general provisions of university data policy in cases where they may conflict.