

APPLIED RESEARCH AND THE PROMOTION OF INNOVATION POLICY

This document is the parent policy for any college or Divisional procedures. Questions regarding this policy are to be directed to the identified Policy Administrator.

Functional Category:	Academic
Approval Date:	14 June 2017
Effective Date:	14 June 2017
Policy Owner:	Vice President, Teaching and Learning
Policy Administrator:	Dean, Academic Research and Development

Objective:

NorQuest College (college) recognizes applied research as an essential element of its mandate. Rapid technological and social change and an increasingly global economy require the education and training of a workforce familiar with research methodologies and innovation strategies and skilled in developing and applying new technologies, processes, and knowledge to bring solutions to the workplace, business, and the public sector. Encouraging faculty, students, and staff to undertake applied research and innovation activities in partnership with community organizations, businesses, and industry will strengthen the college's role as a comprehensive community institution and a leader in workforce preparation and social and industry innovation.

Authority to establish this policy is derived from the [NorQuest College Board of Governor's Policy No. 5](#), which delegates authority to the President and CEO to establish policies and procedures for the college's management and operation.

Policy:

Providing opportunities for college students, faculty, staff, and partners in business, industry, the public service, and the not-for-profit sector to participate in applied research and innovation activities is an important role for Comprehensive Community Institutions as specified in the *Alberta Post-Secondary Learning Act*, S102.3(4)(f).

The college promotes applied research and encourages innovation in teaching, public service, community life, business, and industry as a means of:

- Improving practical learning experiences for students;
- Enhancing the expertise of college faculty and staff;
- Building strong partnerships between the college and community and/or industry; and
- Contributing to the economic, cultural, and social well-being of the larger college community.

The college commits approved facilities, personnel, and financial resources to support applied research and innovation activities undertaken by internal researchers and external partners when evidence supports that these objectives can be met.

Through its commitment to applied research and innovation the college will:

- Meet its own goals and objectives as outlined in its Strategic, Academic, and Comprehensive Institutional Plans;
- Contribute to innovations in intellectual property and technology, pedagogical practices, industrial products and processes, business capacity and effectiveness, community services, and social relations; and

- Broaden and strengthen the dissemination of knowledge throughout business, industry and government, and to local, national, and international communities.

The college's applied research and innovation activities must be approved by the appropriate authorities at the college and are subject to review by the appointed Research Ethics Board when they involve research with human participants. Research undertaken by students, faculty, staff, and any external partners must comply with all relevant college policies and procedures, including those governing *Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Human Participants*, *Integrity in Research and Scholarship*, *Academic Freedom*, and *Code of Conduct*. All research activities must ensure full accountability by undertaking due diligence, adhering to the directives of funding institutions and/or contract conditions, and meeting freedom of information and protection of privacy criteria as provincially legislated.

The college's applied research and innovation activities will further ensure accountability and maintain ethical transparency through coordinated efforts of internal and external research partners, institutions, and funding bodies by adhering, at a minimum, to standards set forth by the federal *Tri-Agency Framework: Responsible Conduct of Research*; to comply with participating institutional research ethics boards; and to ensure that multi-centred research and innovation activities and projects conducted under other jurisdictions also receive appropriate ethical approval from those centres and jurisdictions (e.g., projects involving Indigenous persons or taking place on Indigenous land, clinical trials taking place in the health system, etc.).

Definitions:

Applied research: The process of systematic investigation, often using established methods, to determine facts, principles, or knowledge that produce(s) practical results with actual or potential application to real-world situations. Applied research often focuses on solving immediate problems faced by businesses, industry, communities, government, and society.

External researcher: Any person who is part of an applied research and innovation project team who is not employed by the college. Current NorQuest students are not external researchers but considered student researchers.

Innovation: the process by which ideas are converted into value—in the form of new and improved products, services, and approaches. It often draws on research and may involve commercialization, but it is not synonymous with either. Innovation can be developments in technology, design, business models, social models, and mechanisms of service delivery. It is often conceived as a new way or different of doing something that adds value and contributes to the existing knowledge store of an organization.ⁱ

Internal researcher: Any NorQuest employee (staff or faculty) who is leading or collaborating on an applied research and innovation project team.

Research: "The systematic investigation or inquiry aimed at contributing to knowledge of a theory, topic, etc., by careful consideration, observation, or study of a subject." Also, the "original critical or scientific investigation carried out under the auspices of an academic or other institution."ⁱⁱ

Student researcher: Current NorQuest students who engage in applied research or innovation projects. Student researchers cannot lead applied

Related Information:
Related Procedures:
Next Review Date:
Revision History:

research or innovation projects, but must be supervised by an Internal researcher.

- [Academic Freedom Policy](#)
- [Code of Conduct Policy](#)
- [Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Human Participants Policy](#)
- [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy \(FOIP\) Act Policy](#)
- [Integrity in Research and Scholarship Policy](#)
- [Post-secondary Learning Act](#)
- [Tri-Council Policy Statement 2: Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Human Participants](#)

- [Applied Research and the Promotion of Innovation Procedure](#)

December 2020

January 2013: New
 August 2013: Update for document links and branding
 November 2014: update for change in policy administrator
 July 2015: update for document standards, document links and next review date
 June 2017: Updated

ⁱ O’Sullivan, D. & Dooley L. (2009). *Applying Innovation*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

ⁱⁱ (2015). Oxford English Dictionary.