

Conflict of Interest in Dissertation Research

Doctoral students must address the issue of potential conflicts of interest regarding data, support for dissertation research, and the composition of the dissertation committee. In addition, students must obtain assurances from the sources of data regarding his/her ability to publish results and have access to the data after the dissertation study has been completed. A student must submit this Conflict of Interest in Dissertation Research form when he/she has:

- Passed the qualifying examination;
- Decided upon a dissertation topic, with the approval of his/her faculty advisor;
- Proposed the internal and external members of his/her dissertation committee;
- Informed the department chair regarding the dissertation topic and dissertation committee members; and
- Before a dissertation proposal defense date is scheduled.

The student and dissertation committee chair have the responsibility to provide the Doctoral Committee with information on potential conflicts of interest. To do so, the student must complete and submit this form to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, who will work with the Associate Dean for Research, to determine whether there is a potential conflict of interest that must be addressed by the doctoral student. *The Rutgers University policy on conflict of interest may be found at orra.rutgers.edu/conflict-interest.*

I wish to submit information regarding potential conflicts of interest regarding my dissertation research.

Name: _____ **Student ID#:** _____
Last Name First Name Middle Initial

Student Signature

Date

Sources of Data

1. Is the data to be used for your dissertation research in the public domain? Yes No
If yes, proceed to Sources of Funding; if no, complete the remaining questions.

2. Is the data to be used for your dissertation research:
 - a. Privately owned and not publicly available? Yes No
 - b. Government administrative data that is not publicly available? Yes No
 - c. Obtained from a private foundation as part of the foundation's research effort and not publicly available? Yes No
 - d. Other (*please describe*): _____

Sources of Funding

3. Do you have funding to support your dissertation research? Yes No
If yes, indicate which of the sources noted below will provide funding; if no, proceed to question 4.
 - a. University fellowship or other university-sponsored award Yes No
 - b. Public sector dissertation grant Yes No
 - c. Public sector contract Yes No
 - d. Private foundation funding Yes No
 - e. Private funding from industry Yes No
 - f. Private funding from industry as part of the candidate's employment Yes No

Student Status:

4. Are you a full-time doctoral student? Yes No
5. Are you employed by the entity providing you with the data and/or funding? Yes No
6. Is any member of your family employed by the entity providing you with the data and/or funding?..... Yes No

Dissertation Committee Composition:

7. Does any member of your dissertation committee have a financial arrangement (e.g., salaried employee, contractor, or consultant) with the entity providing the data or funding your dissertation research?..... Yes No
If yes, please explain: _____

Assurances Regarding Access to Data and Publication of Findings:

If your sources of data is not in the public domain and if your data and funding support are from a private or public entity, please complete the following question.

8. Have you obtained assurances in writing from your sources of data and financial support regarding:
- a. Freedom to publish your findings? Yes No
- b. Access to your data after completion of your dissertation research?..... Yes No
- c. Access to your data by members of your dissertation committee for purposes of replication and verification of your study results?..... Yes No
- If you answered yes to any of the above (Question 8), please attach documentation of the assurances.*

Rutgers Conflict of Interest Policy

9. Do you understand that you still need to complete and submit the RBHS Investigator Financial & Other Personal Interests Disclosure Form when submitting your IRB?..... Yes No

Dissertation Committee Chair Signature Date

Department Chair Signature Date

To Be Completed by Associate Deans:

Potential conflicts of interest have been reviewed:

- No further information is required. Additional information is required.

**RETURN TO
OFFICE OF
STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Director of Doctoral Studies Signature Date

Associate Dean for Research Signature Date

Copies to:
Office of Student Affairs
Office of the Registrar
Department Chair
Dissertation Committee Chair
Student