The University of Texas
RioGrandeValley
Information Security Office

Data Dictionary for the Information Security Office

1.   Purpose

A data dictionary is a document that defines and describes data elements in a dataset. It helps ensure everyone understands and uses the data consistently, improving communication, data quality, and security. In the event these definitions conflict with regulatory or governance compliance standards, the most stringent standard will apply.

2.   Scope

These definitions apply to:
   a) All relevant research proposals for UTRGV.

3.   Audience

All faculty, employees, students, consultants, vendors, contractors.

4.   Authority

UTS 165, UTRGV AUP

5.   Standard Definitions

General Terms:

- **Research Security**: Safeguarding the research enterprise against behaviors aimed at misappropriating research and development (R&D) to the detriment of national or economic security.
- **National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPM-33)**: A presidential memorandum directing action to strengthen protections of United States Government-supported Research and Development (R&D) against foreign government interference and exploitation.
- **Foreign Government Interference:** Actions taken by foreign governments to influence or exploit research activities, including intellectual property theft or gaining access to sensitive data.
- **Intellectual Property:** Creations of the mind, such as inventions, literary and artistic works, and designs, which are protected by law.
- **Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI):** Information that requires safeguarding or dissemination controls pursuant to and consistent with regulations and policies created by individual government agencies.
- **Foreign Influence Prevention:** Measures taken to prevent foreign governments from influencing research activities or accessing sensitive data.
- **Conflict of Interest:** A situation in which a researcher's personal interests or affiliations could potentially compromise their objectivity or impartiality in their research.
- **Conflict of Commitment:** A situation where a researcher's commitments to other activities or organizations may interfere with their ability to conduct research or fulfill their obligations to their institution.
- **Foreign Talent Recruitment Program (FTRP):** Programs that recruit foreign talent, potentially raising concerns about research security if not properly vetted.
- **Sponsored Research:** Research funded by external sources, including foreign governments or entities, which may raise security concerns.

Specific Terms:

- **National Security Presidential Memorandum-33 (NSPM-33):** A memorandum outlining the US government's policy on national security related to research and development. [3]
- **Texas Education Code Section 51.956**: A Texas law related to research security policies. [3]
- **Intellectual Property:** Creations of the mind, such as inventions, designs, and literary and artistic works, that are protected by law. [2]
- **Proprietary Data:** Information that is confidential and not publicly available, often protected by trade secrets or other legal means. [2]
- **Clinical Trial Data:** Data collected during clinical trials, requiring specific security measures to protect patient privacy and confidentiality. [2]
- **Foreign Travel:** Travel outside of the country, requiring security protocols to protect researchers and research data. [2, 3]
- **Foreign Scholars and Scientists:** Individuals visiting the university from foreign countries for research purposes, requiring oversight and security protocols. [3]
- **Research Security Program:** A comprehensive set of policies, procedures, and training programs designed to protect research data and intellectual property. [2]
- **Risk-Based Approach:** A method of identifying and mitigating security risks based on the potential impact of those risks. [2]
- **Research Integrity Training:** Training programs designed to educate researchers on research ethics and integrity. [2]
- **Research Integrity Training and Insider Threat Awareness**: Training programs designed to educate researchers on research ethics and integrity, as well as the risks posed by insider threats. [2]
- **Risk-Based Monitoring of University Research Activities:** Monitoring research activities to identify and mitigate potential security risks. [2]

- **Data Classification:**

  - **Confidential:**

    - This data is protected from unauthorized disclosure or public release based on state or federal law or regulations, and by applicable legal agreements. Examples include:

    - Protected Health Information (PHI) under HIPAA.

    - Student educational records under FERPA.

    - Personal financial information like Social Security numbers.

  - **Controlled:**

    - This data is not generally for public consumption but may be subject to release under the Texas Public Information Act (TPIA) or similar laws. Examples include:

    - Employee names and salaries.

    - Research data that hasn't been published but doesn't contain confidential information.

    - Operational records and statistics.

- o **Published:**

    - This data is publicly available and has no confidentiality requirements. Examples include:

    - Research publications.

    - University directories.

    - Job postings.

6. **Revision History**

Version	Date	New
1.0	04/10/2025	Initial Draft
2.0	05/5/2025	Approve by CISO, Kevin Crouse
3.0		