

AUTHORSHIP

The URI College of Engineering is dedicated to upholding the principle that authorship credit should be exclusively to those individuals who have made substantial and meritorious contributions to the research endeavor. The ensuing guidelines elucidate fundamental principles intended to complement any guidelines stipulated by the journal or publisher.

Criteria for authorship:

- To merit inclusion as an author on a paper, four criteria should be met:
 - Substantial contribution to the study conception and design, data acquisition, analysis, and interpretation.
 - Drafting or revising the article for intellectual content.
 - Approval of the final version.
 - Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work.
- All authors, depending on their participation, implicitly assume accountability based on with their expertise and experience, ensuring meticulous scrutiny and resolution of any matters bearing on the veracity or integrity of any aspect of the work.
- Given the potential divergences in practices across diverse cultures, research domains, institutions, or research groups, researchers are encouraged to engage in early discussion regarding authorship criteria and the definition of "substantial" contributions. Such proactive measures serve to mitigate the risks in disputes and misunderstandings.

Criteria for acknowledgment:

Contributions to the publication of a manuscript that do not satisfy the prerequisites for authorship should be duly acknowledged in the acknowledgments section of the paper.

Order of authorship:

If a paper features multiple authors, assuming all authors meet the "Criteria for authorship," the initial author is typically the individual responsible for drafting the primary version of the manuscript or playing a preeminent role in the execution of the research. The final author is principal investigator of the research group, while authors listed in between are ordered based on the diminishing magnitude of their contributions to the project.

Description of contributions:

Where a journal permits a description delineating individual contributions, authors are strongly advised to use this opportunity to articulate the contributions made by each author with clarity.

Resolution of authorship disputes (recommended, it may vary depending on each department):

1. Initial Discussion: The graduate student discusses the authorship conflict directly with the faculty member involved.

2. Written Appeal: If the issue remains unresolved, the student submits a written appeal to the faculty member's department chairperson or immediate administrative supervisor. The chairperson/supervisor reviews the case and responds in writing.

3. Referral to Mediation Committee: If the chairperson/supervisor finds the appeal valid but unresolved, it is referred to a departmental or college mediation committee.

4. Committee Investigation: The mediation committee investigates the case and provides a written decision to the faculty member. If the committee recommends a change in authorship and the faculty member agrees, the authorship is adjusted accordingly. If the faculty member disagrees, they must provide a written explanation.

5. Referral to Graduate School: If the committee deems the appeal valid but unresolved, the case is referred to the Graduate School.

6. Final Decision: If the committee unanimously agrees that the original authorship decision is unjust, they direct the chairperson/supervisor to adjust the authorship. The graduate school will make decisions following the appeal to the committee's recommendation.

7. Special Circumstances: If the faculty member is unavailable (e.g., deceased, relocated), the

chairperson/supervisor will act on the committee's recommendation.

8. Timeliness and Academic Consideration: Appeals must be filed within two semesters of the publication. Authorship disputes are not considered in evaluations for academic progress.