



Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC) OVERVIEW



Some scientific and technological advances that provide great benefits to society can also be used maliciously. Research yielding new technologies or information with the potential for both benevolent and malevolent applications is referred to as "**dual use research**".

The small subset of life sciences research with the highest potential for yielding knowledge, products, or technology that could be directly misapplied to threaten public health or national security is referred to as "**Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC)**".

The United States Government [Policy for Institutional Oversight of Life Sciences Dual Use Research of Concern](#) outlines the criteria for what qualifies as DURC, listing specific [agents and toxin](#) and descriptions of [types of experiments](#) that, **in combination**, define the parameters for research to be classified as DURC and subject to oversight under the policy.

To better understand the DURC requirements or to determine if a research project meets the DURC criteria, please review the training slides provided by the US Department of Health and Human Services.

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