

AUTHORSHIP

The Jacobs School of Engineering is dedicated to the goal that authorship credit should be assigned to those, and only those, who have made sufficient contributions to the research. The following guidelines outline some relevant principles to supplement any guidelines stipulated by the journal or publisher.

Criteria for authorship:

- To be included as an author on a paper, it is typically necessary to have made a substantial contribution to the design, conduct, analysis, and/or interpretation of the work, provided a good faith contribution to writing and/or editing of the manuscript, and approved the content of the version submitted for publication.
- All authors implicitly agree to be accountable, based on their expertise and experience, for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.
- Because practices may vary in different cultures, research areas, institutions, or research groups, researchers are encouraged to discuss authorship criteria and the definition of “substantial” early and often in the course of a collaboration to minimize the risks of disputes and misunderstandings.

Criteria for acknowledgement:

Contributions to the publication of a manuscript that do not meet the criteria for authorship should be recognized in the acknowledgements section of the paper.

Order of authorship:

If a paper has more than one author, and assuming all authors meet the "Criteria for authorship," then the first author will typically be the person who wrote the first draft of the manuscript and/or the person who had the predominant role in conducting the research, the last author will be the head of the research group, and authors listed in between will be listed in order of decreasing contributions to the project.

Description of contributions:

If a journal allows for a description of contributions, authors are encouraged to take advantage of this option to clearly state the contributions of each author.

Disputes about authorship:

If anyone believes that someone proposed to be an author, or someone left off of the list of authors, has not been given credit appropriate to their contributions, then those concerns should be addressed to the head of the research group responsible for the publication. The research group leader has ultimate responsibility within her/his group for decisions about allocation of credit.

Appeals to decisions about authorship:

In the event that the above guidance is insufficient to resolve an authorship dispute, then the interested parties should each draft an anonymized version of their perspective on the issues at stake. These summaries can then be submitted to a mutually agreeable member of the research community to arbitrate a binding decision. In the event that a mutually agreeable individual cannot be identified, the dispute should be referred to the department chair for resolution.