



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

**Case Number: I-17-0020-O**

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A university notified us that its inquiry had concluded an investigation was warranted into allegations of falsification by a graduate student. The allegations are that the graduate student sabotaged another student's research, possibly as a form of sexual harassment. The university investigation committee concluded the graduate student's sabotage was substantiated, but that it did not meet NSF's definition of research misconduct. We concur with the committee that the physical destruction of property, here laboratory supplies and equipment, is not research misconduct. Accordingly, we closed this case.

In the course of our investigation, we learned the university was also conducting an investigation into the graduate student's actions as potential Title IX and related student code violations. NSF recently designated its Office of Diversity and Inclusion to handle allegations of this nature, so we referred the matter to it for such action as it deems appropriate.