**Ohio University**

**NSF Plan: Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Training Program**

**Background**

* The America COMPETES Act final version of Section 7009 was published on August 20, 2009. The Act requires the implementation of a Responsible Conduct of Research Training Program for institutions applying for funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF).
  + Training plans are not required to be submitted with proposals to NSF
  + Training programs are subject to review upon request of NSF
  + The content and delivery method for the training, and how the training is recorded and tracked has been left up to the institution by NSF
  + Institutions are responsible for verifying the training of undergraduate students, graduate students and postdoctoral researchers supported by NSF

**Content Requirements**

* The RCR training program must provide information that covers these areas:
  + Responsible Peer Review
  + Responsible Authorship (including coverage of plagiarism issues)
  + Data Acquisition, management, sharing and ownership issues
  + Conflict of Interest and Commitment
  + Mentoring
  + Collaborative Research
  + Research Misconduct
  + Investigators conducting human subject research or animal research must complete training on these areas.
    - **NOTE that separate training is required for human subject research and use of animals in teaching, testing or research.**

**Delivery Method**

It is understood that there are a variety of methods of teaching RCR concepts. Previously, a general introduction was provided to graduate students during graduate student orientation. In addition to certification of the core course material, primary investigators on NSF projects must provide ongoing guidance and mentorship on ethical research for undergraduate students, graduate students and postdoctoral researchers.

Ohio University offers several options for completion of the RCR training requirement.

* Completion with certification of a comprehensive web based training program offered through the nationally recognized Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). This is also the mechanism used for verifying training for those involved in human subject research and animal subject research, teaching or testing. These courses offer a thorough introduction to RCR, and the information is broken into modules that can be completed over multiple sessions.
  + There are discipline specific modules available from CITI:
    - Social and Behavioral Research
    - Biomedical Research
    - Physical Sciences
    - Arts and Humanities
    - Engineering
* Completion of an RCR seminar offered by the Office of Research Compliance with certification.
  + Seminars may be scheduled by departments and/or investigators by contacting the Office of Research Compliance.
* Completion of a graduate course in responsible conduct of research that has been certified by the Office of Research Compliance to meet the training requirements of the America Competes Act. (If your department offers such courses please contact Chris Hayhow and he will review them for inclusion in the overall program for responsible conduct of research training)

**Responsibilities**

The Vice President for Research division has the responsibility for:

* Maintaining the CITI online training program
* Providing seminars on RCR
* Providing RCR resource information for investigators
* Assuring that a program is in place for responsible conduct of research training

The College, Department and each Principle Investigator has the responsibility to:

* Assure that all undergraduate students, graduate students and postdoctoral researchers have been notified of the required training

The Principle Investigator has the responsibility to:

* Assure that the training has been completed appropriately
* Maintain verification of the training
* Provide ongoing mentorship and guidance on ethical research

The student or post-doctoral researcher has the responsibility to:

* Assure that they complete the RCR training in a timely fashion.

**Failure to Comply**

* Failure to complete the required training can result in removal of students from projects and the possibility that funds paid to students not completing the training will have to be transferred to a non-funded account.

**Responsible Conduct of Research Training Verification for NSF Funded Projects**

PI Name:

Department:

College:

NSF Funded Project Title:

UT #

This is verification for:

Name:

This is an:  Undergraduate Student

Graduate Student

Postdoctoral Researcher

As the primary investigator I acknowledge that the student or postdoctoral researcher listed above has completed the training requirements. (*Please attach the certificate of completion or other verification of completion of coursework*)

PI Signature

Student/Postdoctoral Researcher Signature

Email a signed form to:

Hillary Snyder, Director, Office of Research Compliance

740-593-0664

[Hillary.Snyder@ohio.edu](mailto:Hillary.Snyder@ohio.edu)

[compliance@ohio.edu](mailto:compliance@ohio.edu)