

Wright State University Plan for the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

Wright State University (WSU) has adopted the following plan in fulfillment of the National Science Foundation's requirement that institutions that apply for financial assistance have a plan in place to provide training and oversight in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). The plan will be used in fulfillment of RCR obligations from all government agencies that implement this requirement. This plan comprises training, certification and monitoring phases applicable to undergraduate students, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who are required by a funding agency to take RCR training.

Training

Training at WSU may be offered in workshop, coursework, mentoring and online formats. Trainees may elect training in a variety of formats to complete all required topic areas. Training should be discipline-specific and adjusted for stage of career. Ideally, online training should not be the sole means of achieving certification. Training options include:

- Successful completion of selected modules of the online RCR program hosted by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI).
- Discipline-specific mentoring by the PI and/or lead investigators during the course of the grant.
- Selected workshops or courses offered to students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty. These workshops may be offered through the Office of Research Compliance and/or in conjunction with for-credit courses offered by academic units.

WSU subscribes to the online RCR program offered by CITI. This information will be freely disseminated to faculty, staff and students. The Research Compliance website at <https://www.wright.edu/research/compliance/responsible-conduct-of-research> will list all training opportunities and direct faculty and students to applicable information.

The CITI program offers RCR core modules that are customized to various discipline categories. WSU will offer courses and CITI modules in the following discipline-specific areas:

- Biological/Biomedical Sciences
- Engineering Sciences
- Arts and Humanities
- Physical Sciences
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Research Administration

All students and post-doctoral fellows supported by agencies mandating RCR training and compliance will be required to complete training within their discipline category. They must take assigned modules (see “core elements”) and pass tests covering those RCR core elements. Undergraduates must train, but will not have to take the Peer Review or Conflict of Interest/Commitment modules.

Faculty must complete training appropriate to their discipline and be certified in order to serve as mentors to their postdoctoral fellows and students. Faculty may choose either the workshops or CITI modules in fulfillment of this requirement. Faculty may elect not to train their students and postdoctoral fellows, but have them receive training through coursework, workshops and CITI modules.

The core elements of RCR include:

- Research Misconduct
- Authorship
- Collaborative Research
- Data Management, Sharing and Ownership
- Publication Practices and Responsible Authorship
- Collaborative Research
- Conflicts of Interest and Commitment
- Mentoring/trainee responsibilities
- Research Misconduct and Policies
- Peer Review

In addition, the following modules will be required when dictated by the nature of the project:

- Protection of Human Subjects
- Welfare of Laboratory Animals
- Safe Laboratory Practices

Note: WSU will respond promptly to any new agency requirements for RCR compliance and inform the University community of these updates.

When training is required:

Faculty who wish to mentor their students are asked to complete training during the period following proposal submission and award. They may delay training until the award notice, but they must complete training no later than two weeks following the start date of the award.

Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows must complete training no later than 90 days following their start date on the funded project. Graduate students taking college-offered ethics courses may work on funded projects concurrently with taking the class. Not all college-offered ethics courses will include the full spectrum of required topics. The ethics course syllabi should clearly outline which modules are covered in the classes. Other approved training must supplement the ethics course(s).

Undergraduate students are asked to complete training as soon as possible prior to working on an NSF-supported research project. For short-term projects or appointments of 90 days' duration or less, principal investigators or co-investigators with appropriate training may train students in RCR through accelerated mentoring. In cases where time does not permit, students may take training concurrently with work on the project. They should complete the training within the first 30% of the project period.

Certification and Assurance

WSU will accept certificates from other educational institutions for new employees requiring training as long as those institutions verify the certificate and list topics covered in modules and courses.

WSU will provide assurances to funding agencies according to agency requirements.

RSP will inform the principal Investigator and co-principal Investigators of agency-specific RCR requirements at the time of proposal routing and again when the application has been funded.

Monitoring

The Office of Research Compliance will monitor those grants requiring RCR, notify the principal investigator/project director of instances of non-compliance and recommend a course of action and timeline to regain full compliance. Continued non-compliance will result in either suspension of a worker from a project or a freezing of research funds by the Vice President for Research.

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