

Responsible Conduct of Research

Beginning January 2010, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) required applicant institutions to have in place at the time of a proposal's submission a plan for providing "appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduate students, graduate students and postdoctoral researchers."

Whitworth's Plan for Fulfilling the RCR Requirement

In support of this requirement, Whitworth University has developed a training program using content developed by the University of New Hampshire and freely shared with the research community through the federal Office of Research Integrity. The content has been modified to meet Whitworth University policies and procedures and is a Blackboard course. The requirement applies only to NSF and NIH lab personnel; however, this training can be used for all who have an interest in ethics education and the responsible conduct of research and scholarship. (Note: NIH requires that eight hours of training be face-to-face. Online modules will be modified for classroom training as needed.) The online course incorporates pertinent information in nine (9) subject areas, along with case studies allowing participants to apply the knowledge they gain.

Topic Areas

The RCR topic areas include Human Subjects, Animal Subjects, Authorship, Research Misconduct, Data Management, Conflict of Interest, Mentoring, Peer Review, and Collaborative Research. Each training session takes about 20-30 minutes to complete, and the modules need not be completed all at once.

The course includes testing. Students must pass with a score of 80 percent overall. Upon finishing the course, participants will receive a certificate of completion.

Note to Faculty Researchers:

It is a principal investigator's responsibility to inform students paid by NSF or NIH funds of this mandatory RCR training. To enroll a student in the Blackboard course, please contact the director of sponsored programs.

If you have questions, please call or e-mail:

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