

Responsible Conduct of Research Training Guidelines

Background and Scope

As part of the implementation of Section 7009 of the *America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science* (COMPETES) Act, the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) have enacted policies requiring faculty, staff and students (both undergraduate and graduate) who are engaged in sponsored research undergo training in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). Furthermore, these funding agencies require the University to monitor and track that all such researchers have received RCR training.

In April 2007, the Rowan University Senate has passed a resolution entitled "Resolution on Establishment of a Training Program for Ethical & Responsible Conduct of Research." The resolution requires the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs to enact a training program in the responsible conduct of research, and that necessary checkpoints shall be implemented so that the training requirements can be enforced.

Education and training in ethical conduct of research is important in the development of individuals pursuing advanced degrees or engaged in research in any field of study. This policy provides minimum standards of responsible conduct of research training. Rowan University has an obligation to ensure that any student, staff and faculty involved in research have a comprehensive working knowledge of responsible research behaviors. These matters should include scientific misconduct, conflict of interest, data management, authorship practices, human and animal research subjects, and academic ethics.

Training Requirements

Education and training in ethical conduct of research is important in the development of individuals pursuing advanced degrees or engaged in research in any field of study.

Ongoing training and education in the responsible conduct of research (RCR) supported by certain NSF and NIH grant programs is a mandatory requirement. Training standards apply to researchers, undergraduate and graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows supported by NIH funded programs that involve career development, research training or any other research education that requires RCR training. Training standards apply to all undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral fellows supported by NSF funded programs. More information about the training requirements is detailed

below.

All School of Medicine faculty and postdoctoral fellows involved in research (excluding house staff) are required to complete training in RCR. In some cases, students in the School of Medicine may be required to complete RCR training when working on a sponsored program or grant regardless of funding source.

Online Training

Rowan University utilizes the online, web-based training program provided by Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) to provide educational modules for undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. Student work funded by NIH sources other than formal training grants and programs can complete the online CITI training. Any undergraduate, graduate or postdoctoral researcher funded by NSF can complete the online CITI training. Once completed, the RCR training certification is valid for three (3) years.

In-person training

Students and postdoctoral researchers funded through NIH formal training grants and programs are required to take the in-person training related to RCR. The in-person training provides an opportunity and venue for discussing case studies and decision-making skills. The in-person training covers the topics associated with RCR, which include but may not be limited to Research Misconduct; Management of Data and Responsible Authorship; Mentoring and Peer Review; and Collaboration and Conflict of Interest.