

Education in Responsible Conduct of Research

Summary/Purpose: Mandatory educational requirement for sponsored research projects personnel to acquire knowledge of best practices in the responsible conduct of research and University, State, and Federal regulations.

POLICY

All members of the University of Mississippi strive to exemplify the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct. To support that goal, the University Research Board unanimously endorsed mandatory education in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) for all Principal Investigators (PIs) and key personnel, including staff, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate and undergraduate students, participating in sponsored projects that involve research. Those personnel must complete the CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative) component of the RCR curriculum below prior to receipt of sponsored program funding.

Beyond promoting research integrity, the RCR curriculum is designed to help comply with the November 2009 National Institutes of Health (NIH) update on its requirement for instruction in the responsible conduct of research and the National Science Foundation (NSF) Implementation of the America COMPETES Act requirements as well as to meet national ethics education norms.

RCR CURRICULUM

CITI Online Education

The RCR curriculum covers basic principles that are based on best practices of research integrity. It employs the online RCR program at CITI developed by national experts, funded in part by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Research Integrity, and hosted by the University of Miami. Content is modular with brief online tests following each module. Completion of all modules takes about 4-6 hours, and CITI notifies the UM Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) upon completion.

The CITI program provides RCR core modules that address the following discipline categories:

- Biomedical Sciences
- Humanities
- Physical Sciences
- Social and Behavioral Sciences

The core modules are:

- Authorship
- Collaborative Research
- Conflicts of Interest
- Data Management
- Mentoring
- Peer Review
- Research Misconduct

The University of Mississippi

For complete information and instructions, see the [ORSP RCR Education web page](#).

Endorsed by University Research Board March 8, 2010. Approved as policy by Executive Management Council April 23, 2010.