

Overview

Responsible conduct in research (RCR) is simply good citizenship applied to professional life. RCR covers core norms, principles, regulations, and rules governing the practice of research. Researchers who conduct and report their work honestly, accurately, efficiently, and objectively are on the right road when it comes to responsible conduct. RCR topics commonly include:

- Mentor/mentee responsibilities and relationships
- Data acquisition and laboratory tools; management, sharing, and ownership
- Research misconduct and policies for handling misconduct
- Responsible authorship and publication
- Conflicts of interest – personal, professional, and financial – and conflicts of commitment
- Policies regarding human subjects, live vertebrate animal subjects in research, and safe laboratory practices
- Collaborative research including collaborations with industry
- Peer review
- The scientist as a responsible member of society, contemporary ethical issues in biomedical research, and the environmental and societal impacts of scientific research
- Research security and export controls

Covered Individuals

- All graduate students matriculating in majors with a research thesis or dissertation
- NSF supported faculty, staff, and students
- NIH training and development grant¹ supported faculty, staff, and students
- USDA NIFA supported faculty, staff, and students

Responsibilities

University of Rhode Island (URI) is responsible for:

1. Developing a plan to provide appropriate education and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to covered individuals. Institutional certification to this effect is required for each research proposal.
2. Providing educational plans to appropriate agencies upon request.
3. Designating the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) as the office responsible for overseeing compliance with this plan.

¹ Applicable funding programs: D43, D71, F05, F30, F31, F32, F33, F34, F37, F38, K01, K02, K05, K07, K08, K12, K18, K22, K23, K24, K25, K26, K30, K99/R00, KL1, KL2, R25, R36, T15, T32, T34, T35, T36, T37, T90/R90, TL1, TU2, & U2R

4. Verifying that RCR education has been completed by required graduate students and other covered individuals paid from an applicable NSF, NIH, or USDA NIFA award or individuals identified by the PI of the award as being required to complete the education.

The **Principal Investigator (PI)** of an applicable NSF, NIH, or USDA NIFA award is responsible for ensuring compliance with requirements of the award, which includes facilitation of the education completion process and ensuring that all covered individuals are notified of the requirement.

Education Requirements

The RCR program is somewhat flexible, allowing most covered individuals multiple options for completing the required education:

- Successful completion of an approved ethics course: Courses that are currently approved to complete this requirement are BIO 500/BES 500, BES 510, CHM 500, CHE 570, MAF 502, NEU 504, NUR 649, PHC 530, PHC 693, and ENG 510/511.
- Attendance and participation at 3 or more sessions of the RCR Seminar Series: ORI sponsors a monthly seminar each academic year, covering a variety of RCR topics.
- Completion of an online RCR course via CITI: Several discipline-specific RCR courses are available via the CITI online training system. Completion of any of the RCR courses is acceptable.

Individuals receiving support from NSF and NIH have more strict requirements:

- NSF supported faculty, staff, and students must complete **both** the online CITI RCR course **and** the online CITI Export Controls course.
- NIH training and development grant supported faculty, staff, and students must complete 8 hours of general and discipline-specific RCR training that involves discussion and interaction with faculty. ORI will work with the department to develop appropriate content.

ACCEPTABLE COURSES FOR EACH TRAINING GROUP

	Approved Ethics Course	RCR Seminar Series (3+ sessions)	CITI RCR	CITI RCR + Export Controls	NIH RCR course
<i>Graduate Students</i>	X	X	X	X	X
<i>USDA NIFA</i>	X	X	X	X	X
<i>NSF</i>				X	
<i>NIH</i>					X

Deadlines

Completion of RCR education is required before covered graduate students submit their dissertation / thesis proposal form to the Graduate School for approval.

Faculty, staff, and students supported by NSF, USDA NIFA, and NIH training and development grants must complete RCR education within six months of receipt of the grant's notice of award.

Notification and Verification Process

- ORI will periodically announce the RCR education requirement to the University research community via the Resrch-L listserv.
- The RCR education requirement is listed within the Graduate Student Manual.
- The RCR education program is described on the ORI website.
- PIs must certify their understanding of the RCR training requirements during the proposal process.
- The PI of an applicable NSF, NIH, or USDA NIFA award will direct students, postdoctoral researchers, faculty, and staff to complete the required education.
- For graduate students, ORI will verify compliance through an RCR education approval on the dissertation / thesis proposal approval form. ORI will verify successful completion of the requirement prior to submission to the Graduate School.
- For faculty, staff, and students supported by NSF, USDA NIFA, and NIH training and development grants, ORI will conduct periodic audits of training compliance via the InfoEd system.