Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

Training Plan Procedures for Graduate Research Assistants and Undergraduate Students Working on Research Awards

Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) is committed to the ethical conduct of research by faculty, staff and students who conduct research.

In compliance with federal agency policies in response to the America COMPETES Act, SFASU developed this plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers participating in federally funded research.

Training is applicable to all new NSF awards applied for and received after January 1, 2010, and all other federal awards as detailed in award documents and specific agency guidelines.

Training Programs

1. Each individual, subject to this requirement, will be required to complete the free, online RCR course offered by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI).

2. The Principal Investigator/Project Director (PI/PD) is responsible for ensuring that the appropriate topic(s) for the on-line training program is completed in a timely manner and that the appropriate documentation is forwarded to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs for record retention.

3. Discipline specific RCR topic areas include: biomedical; social & behavioral research; physical sciences; humanities; engineers; and administrators.

   The REQUIRED RCR topic areas include: research misconduct; data management; conflict of interest; and responsible authorship. Additional topic areas should be added based on their applicability to the specific research. These include: collaborative science; mentoring; peer review; lab animals; and human subjects.

4. The PI/PD is encouraged to provide mentoring to students in the following areas as applicable to the specific research or program design in addition to the online program and to refer the student to applicable resources (SFASU policies, procedures, committees, etc.):
   a. Data acquisition, management, sharing, and ownership
   b. Publication practices and responsible authorship, and collaborative research
   c. Conflicts of interest
   d. Human subjects protection
   e. Animal use and care/animal welfare
   f. Research misconduct

CITI website: https://www.citiprogram.org/rcrpage.asp?language=english&affiliation=100

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