

National Science Foundation (NIH) Implementation of the Requirement for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research

A. Background:

The NIH recently issued an **Update to its Policy on Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)**. This document provides more specific requirements for RCR education plans, including ongoing monitoring and reporting on the fulfillment of the plans. **These updates will take effect for all new and renewal applications submitted on or after January 25, 2010.** All continuation applications with deadlines on or after January 1, 2011, are also required to comply.

General Requirements:

NIH requires that all trainees, fellows, participants, and scholars receiving support through any NIH training, career development award (individual or institutional), research education grant, and dissertation research grant receive instruction in responsible conduct of research.

New applications must include a plan for instruction in responsible conduct of research and must describe how participation will be monitored (requirements for individual applications vary).

Renewal applications, in addition to the criteria for new applications, the renewal application must describe past and future changes that address any weaknesses in the current instruction. All training faculty who have served as course directors, speakers, lecturers, and/or discussion leaders must be named in the application (requirements for individual applications vary).

Applications lacking a plan for instruction in responsible conduct of research will be considered incomplete and may be delayed in the review process or not reviewed.

B. UCCS Training Plan:

The Principal Investigator/Project Director (PI/PD) will develop a training plan that incorporates substantial face-to-face discussions among the participating trainees/fellows/scholars/ participants.

Plans must address [five specific instructional components:](#)

1. Format

Plans must include substantial face-to-face instruction. Online instruction is not considered adequate as the sole means of instruction.

2. **Subject Matter**
NIH provides recommended subjects
3. **Faculty Participation**
Training faculty and mentors are highly encouraged to contribute.
4. **Duration of Instruction**
Acceptable programs generally involve at least **eight contact hours**.
5. **Frequency of Instruction**
Instruction must be undertaken at least once during each career stage.

Supplemental Online Training:

The PI/PD may use the online RCR program offered by CITI as a supplement to the developed RCR training.

UCCS subscribes to the on-line RCR program offered by CITI,
<https://www.citiprogram.org/>

RCR Course only-
<https://www.citiprogram.org/rcrpage.asp?language=english&affiliation=100>

C. Compliance:

NIH policy requires participation in and successful completion of instruction. It is expected that course attendance is monitored and that a certificate or documentation of participation is available upon course completion.

The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Integrity (OSPRI) will occasionally ask for additional information from PDs/PIs during the course of their funded program.

Contact the OSPRI (composp@uccs.edu or 255-3903) with questions or for further information.