

Policy on the Responsible Conduct of Research

RESEARCH

Effective Date: January 1, 2010

Date Revised: April 27, 2018

Supersedes: N/A

Related Policies:

Policy on Research Misconduct

Code of Ethical Conduct

Policy on Conflict of Interest and Commitment

Faculty Handbook

Responsible

Office/Department:

Office of Research

Administration and

Finance

Research Compliance

Keywords: academic integrity; research ethics; responsible authorship; human subject protections; use and care of animals, data acquisition & management; peer review; mentor/trainee responsibilities

I. Purpose and Scope

This policy promotes scientific integrity through training in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) and applies to students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and investigators supported on applicable research awards funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or any extramural funding organization that makes RCR a term and condition of its award.

II. Definitions

For purposes of this policy,

The **Responsible Conduct of Research** means *the practice of scientific investigation with integrity. It involves the awareness and application of established professional norms and ethical principles in the performance of all activities related to scientific research.*

III. Policy

Pursuant to the terms and conditions of an extramurally-funded award, undergraduate students, graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, including short-term visitors, paid by NSF awards subject to the America COMPETES Act; individuals receiving support through applicable NIH training, career development awards (individual or institutional), education grants, or dissertation grants; or individuals supported on any other award requiring such training, must participate in and complete instructional programs in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). Principal Investigators are responsible for monitoring compliance with RCR requirements associated with their awards. RCR training must be consistent with the legal, regulatory, and ethical requirements established by regulatory

agencies, funding sources, professional organizations, and the University's Plan for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research.

RCR instruction, as defined by federal agencies and by various scientific societies, includes, but is not limited to, the following content areas:

- Collaborative Science
- Research Ethics and the Role of the Scientist
- Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment
- Data Acquisition, Management, Sharing and Ownership
- Mentor/Trainee Responsibilities
- Peer Review
- Publication Practices and Responsible Authorship
- Research Misconduct
- Research Involving Human Subjects
- Research Involving Animals

IV. Additional Information

In order to facilitate more meaningful training, modules will be tailored for the four broad disciplinary categories of biomedical research, social and behavioral research, physical science, and humanities. Detailed instruction in the last two content areas is required for those engaging in human subject research, animal research, and laboratory research, and is provided through the Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) and Institutional Animal Care & Use Committees (IACUCs) respectively.

Consequences for violations of this policy, or related laws, regulations, or award requirements can include loss of research funding and/or disciplinary action up to and including termination.

The federal agencies' RCR policies can be found at:

<http://www.northeastern.edu/research/responsible-conduct-of-research/nsf-rcr-policy/>

<http://www.northeastern.edu/research/responsible-conduct-of-research/nih-rcr-policy/>

V. Contact Information

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[Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative \(CITI\) website](#)

[Northeastern University's RCR Training Plan](#)