Office of Research Compliance Sponsored Programs Office



Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Plan

Background

Effective January 4, 2010, all universities receiving federal funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) are required to have a plan for training student personnel and postdoctoral researchers on NSF research grants in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). Section 7009 of the America COMPETES Act, requires "...each institution that applies for financial assistance from the Foundation (NSF) for science and engineering research or education describe in its grant proposal a 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 the proposed research project." Certain other federal agencies also require RCR training.

Given the NSF mandate, and concurrent requirements from other federal agencies, all Ball State University undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral researchers involved in any way on a federal award will be required to complete RCR training. In addition to this requirement, all NSF grant applications will be required to describe the plan for RCR training. Other federal grant applications may also require similar statements.

Clearance Sheets

The internal Ball State University Project Director(s) clearance sheet for all federal grant applications will require that the principal investigator affirm two additional statements:

- I have read and understand the Ball State University Policy and Procedures for Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct.
- I understand that all student researchers and/or post-doctoral fellows will be required to undergo responsible conduct of research training;

BSU RCR Plan

Pursuant to current RCR training expectations, ¹ the target audience for RCR training shall be undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers. These individuals will be required to submit to the following two phase procedure.

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¹ Federal Register/Vol. 74m No 160/Thursday, August 20, 2009/Notices. http://frwebgate6.access.gpo.gov/cgibin/PDFgate.cgi?WAISdocID=607002358005+0+2+0&WAISaction=retrieve.

First, all of the aforementioned individuals will be required to complete the online Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)² RCR training modules at https://www.citiprogram.org/enroll/courseregistration1b.asp?language=english&institution=10 with a passing score of 80%. This must be completed within the first 60 days of the semester following a favorable funding decision.

Second, and after successfully completing the online CITI training in RCR, a follow-up training session will be conducted through the Office of Research Compliance, Ball State University. Per the Office of Research Integrity (ORI), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the following training topics, using an established and consistent PowerPoint presentation, will be addressed:

- 1. Data Acquisition, Management, Sharing and Ownership
- 2. Conflict of Interest and Commitment
- 3. Human Subjects
- 4. Animal Welfare
- 5. Research Misconduct
- 6. Publication Practices and Responsible Authorship
- 7. Mentor / Trainee Responsibilities
- 8. Peer Review
- Collaborative Science

The second phase of training will be offered on the first Wednesday of every other month. The live training session cannot be completed until the successful completion of the CITI RCR training modules (phase one).

Questions

Please direct any questions regarding this information to the Director of Research Compliance and campus Research Integrity Officer (RIO) at 765-285-5070.

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² Ball State University is a member of CITI and consequently has access to all research compliance training modules including those in RCR. Individuals required to complete these modules will not be charged by CITI.