

RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

INTRODUCTION

Many federal agencies now require ongoing educational training in the responsible conduct of research (RCR) for faculty and students involved in federally-sponsored research (via research classes, or other formal research activities), and for non-degree visitors (high school students, visiting students, visiting scholars, etc.) who conduct research. This policy is intended to meet that requirement at Suffolk County Community College (SCCC). Ethical and responsible research conduct is required to promote both public trust in research and high-quality research results. Future engineers, scientists and STEM professionals must be trained in the responsible conduct of research.

DEFINITIONS

Project Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) means the individual who is responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of sponsored research, or proposals for such funding.

NIH is the National Institutes of Health.

NSF is the National Science Foundation.

Research means a systematic investigation, study, or experiment designed to contribute to generalizable knowledge relating broadly to public health, including behavioral and social-sciences research. The term encompasses basic and applied research.

RCR TRAINING

According to NSF, institutions are responsible for selecting the content and the frequency of their RCR training. SCCC will implement a program with an open online research ethics course. SCCC faculty and students doing research, as well as visitors, such as secondary school students or visiting scholars conducting research at SCCC, must complete RCR training. Proof that the training has been completed at another institution may be accepted to fulfill this requirement at the discretion of the Office of Grants Development. Researchers and students in need of training may complete the free University of Montana Online Research Ethics Course:

http://ori.hhs.gov/education/products/montana_round1/research_ethics.html. Faculty and students must read the introduction and then complete all of the six sections, pass each of the six online assessments, and print each of the six certificates of completion as proof of training.

If the research is performed at another institution, SCCC will only require RCR training if the hosting institution does not have a policy that provides the RCR training to SCCC faculty and students.

The Project Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) will be responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy. Documentation of compliance by all individuals doing sponsored research will be maintained by the PD/PI for at least three (3) years after the project final report is submitted to the sponsor. The Office of Grants Development may require the PD/PI to document compliance with the policy.

RCR training is required for research supported by an NSF grant that is funded after January 4, 2010 or an applicable new or renewal NIH grant funded after January 25, 2010, as well as other federally-funded programs that require RCR training in their request for proposal or funding opportunity announcement.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (COMPETES) Act requires that “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.”