

Division Department	<p style="text-align: center;">Administration and Finance</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Grants Office</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worcester State University Responsible Conduct of Research Policy & Procedures (RCR)</p>
Policy	<p>The America COMPETES Act of 2007 established new guidelines that require research and education proposals to present a plan for "appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research." Faculty who receive federal funding to conduct research or to supervise student researchers or post docs are responsible for ensuring all work is done in compliance with Worcester State University (WSU) and governmental policies. This includes ensuring that all post docs and undergraduate students supported by federal funds are given proper training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research. The WSU Grant Office in the Fiscal Affairs Department stands ready to assist faculty in identifying appropriate RCR training, instruction, and guidance.</p>
Procedure	<p>Project Directors/Principal Investigators (PD/PI) who receive federal funding are responsible for ensuring all work is done in compliance with Worcester State University (WSU) and governmental policies. This includes ensuring that all post docs and undergraduate students supported by federal funds are given proper training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research. This training MUST take place during the first year of employment or, if the period of employment is less than a year, must take place before the termination of the employment period. The student or post-doc need not complete the tutorials in one sitting, but, again, must complete the course prior to the end of the employment period.</p> <p>Below, the University has provided a number of online tutorials and other reference materials that the PD/PI may use to comply with the RCR requirement. It is the responsibility of the PD/PI to determine what aspects of RCR training are most appropriate for their employees. The NIH, for example, suggests that the RCR instructional program include the following topics: conflict of interest, responsible authorship, policies for handling misconduct, policies regarding the use of human participants and animal subjects, and data management. Please note that some federal grantors require researchers to complete training in relevant areas such as Human Subjects. PIs are encouraged to work with WSU's Human Subjects Review Board in devising their plans, if appropriate.</p> <p>Worcester State University is responsible for tracking and verifying completion of this training for employees. Once the student or post-doc has completed the training, they should print off the certification produced by the online training course and send it to the Grants Coordinator in the Grant Office.</p> <p>Because adherence to the highest ethical and moral standards in the conduct of research and scholarly activity is the expectation for all members of the Worcester State University community, we strongly suggest that all undergraduates engaged in research with faculty participate in RCR training.</p> <p>The Grants Office is available to meet and discuss with the PD/PI to assist in determining the training plan. The Grants Office must be notified of the final selection.</p>

Online Training

[North Carolina State University](#) provides [online courses](#) in Philosophy of Science, Research Ethics, and Animals in Research.

The [Center on Materials and Devices for Information Technology Research](#), with the support of the NSF, has created an [online RCR course](#). Group and Individual registration is required but a [preview](#) is available.

The Collaborative Institutional Training Incentive ([CITI](#)) provides an [online course](#) in the Responsible Conduct of Research.

Columbia University provides a number of [online courses](#) on RCR topics, including; Conflicts of Interest, Mentoring, Responsible Authorship and Peer Review, Research Misconduct, Collaborative Science and Data Acquisition and Management.

The University of New Hampshire provides several online [modules](#) for RCR training.

NSF funded [Visionlearning.com](#) provides a learning module and follow-up quiz on [Scientific Ethics](#).

The [Poynter Center](#) at [Indiana University](#) has developed a curriculum for [Moral Reasoning in Scientific Research](#). The Center also holds an annual [training](#) for research ethics education.

The [National Academies Press](#) book "On Being a Scientist: Responsible Conduct in Research" is available [online](#).

The [University of Massachusetts at Amherst](#) has developed a course on the Responsible Conduct of Research that is available [online](#). The course covers the core RCR instructional areas including; data management, conflict of interest, publication, authorship, peer review, collaboration, mentoring and research misconduct.

The [Responsible Conduct of Research Education Consortium](#) (RCREC) is a nonprofit non-governmental consortium of institutions and organizations which provides the research community in identifying, developing, and promoting programs of education in the RCR.

Books and Journals

- [Research ethics: a reader](#) (e-book) Elliot & Stern. 1997.
- [Research ethics: cases and material](#). Penslar. 1995.
- [Science and Engineering Ethics](#)

Additional Information

- [Responsible Conduct of Research at PUIs](#) (CUR 2009)
- [Research Responsibility and Undergraduates](#) (CUR 2002)
- [Resources for Research Ethics Education](#)
- AAAS Integrity in Scientific Research [resource page](#)
- NAP's Integrity in [Scientific Research: Creating an Environment That Promotes Responsible Conduct](#)
- HHS [Office of Research Integrity - Educational Resources](#)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Honor in Science (Sigma Xi)
Approved by Vice President/Date		
Approved by Cabinet/Date		
Revised Date		December 11, 2012