

# Responsible Conduct of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities

America **C**reating **O**pportunities to  
**M**eaningfully **P**romote **E**xcellence in  
**T**echnology, **E**ducation and **S**cience Act

America COMPETES Act

## Responsible Conduct of Research

Conducting research in ways that fulfill the professional responsibilities of researchers, as those responsibilities are defined by their professional organizations, MSU and, when relevant, government and other entities that support and regulate research.

## Research Integrity

The quality of possessing and steadfastly adhering to high professional principles, standards and obligations, as prescribed above.

# Research Ethics

The critical study of the moral problems associated with, or that arise in the course of, pursuing research.

## Who must have training?

RCR started with NSF and NIH, but almost everyone associated with research through FW must complete the training.

All postdoctoral researchers – postdoctoral fellows, research associates and/or visiting researchers

All graduate research assistants – hourly, GRA, fellowship

All research technicians

All undergraduate research assistants with substantial independence in their activities – volunteer, hourly, fellowship

# Possible Exemptions

One – Off volunteers – unpaid, participate for a short period of time, heavily supervised

Extremely short-term workers – paid, participate for a short period of time, heavily supervised (assisting with data collection or perhaps building things).

Student Workers - paid, moderate to heavy supervision, doing work that can be checked by others (e.g, data entry) or work that should not have a large direct impact on the research (e.g., stuffing envelopes or washing lab ware).

## Bottom Line

Anyone with significant responsibility for any aspect of a research project, particularly individuals that work largely unsupervised, need to document their RCR training.

It would be a good idea to document training for the exemptions.

## What must be documented?

For each individual, evidence of:

- Initially , a minimum of 5 hours of training
- Training shall be updated annually (minimum of 3 hours)
- Reported annually

## Specific areas that “must” be addressed

Data acquisition, management, sharing & ownership

Conflict of interest and commitment

Research misconduct

Publication practices and responsible authorship

Mentor/ trainee responsibilities

Peer review

Collaborative science

Human subjects – special training available/required

Animal welfare – special training available/required

## What counts as training?

Online training for use of animal and/or human subjects

Assigned readings

Face-to-face discussions with the P.I. (can be one-on-one or as a group)

MSU sponsored (e.g. the Graduate School's program on Research Misconduct) workshops and programs (live and/or online) <http://grad.msu.edu/rcr/>

Department's graduate student handbook and orientation

Research methods courses

Special seminars

## Some requirements

Everything cannot be online

Some portion must be face-to-face

- authorship, peer review & data management

Research misconduct is a required topic.

## How will we document training?

There is a link on the FW homepage.

The link will take you to a program that will allow you to record your training. You will be responsible for documenting your training. Your major professor is responsible for making sure you do it.