

07.02.10

Vice President for Research and Economic Development Office of Sponsored Programs

March 9, 2012; Reviewed/Revised February 26, 2024

To establish a process which gives face-to-face Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research training credits to The University of Alabama in Huntsville's ("UAH" or "University") faculty and research staff that teach courses identified by the Provost and Deans meeting the requirements of Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research modules.

Federal Regulations define Research Misconduct as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research or in reporting research results. Federal policy requires participation in and successful completion of instruction in responsible conduct of research by individuals supported by any NIH or NSF award. It is expected that course attendance is monitored and that a certificate or documentation of participation is available upon course completion. Institutions are expected to maintain records sufficient to demonstrate that federally supported trainees, fellows, and scholars have received the required instruction. See ORI Policies and Regulations: <https://ori.hhs.gov/federal-policies>

The responsible and ethical conduct of research (RCR) is critical for excellence, as well as public trust, in federally funded sponsored programs. Consequently, education in RCR is considered essential in the preparation of future scientists and engineers. It is the policy of UAH that all individuals proposing and/or charging to a federally sponsored project will complete 8 hours (6 hours face-to-face and 2 hours web based) of RCR training.

Statutory Requirement:

"The Director shall require that each institution that applies for financial assistance from the Foundation 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."

Effective July 31, 2023, NSF has implemented new requirements for training in the responsible and ethical conduct of research. Previously, this training was only

required for students and postdoctoral scholars. Faculty and other Senior Personnel supported by NSF to conduct research are now required to complete this training. Everyone required to complete this training will be asked to complete online [CITI](#) training. NSF has also expanded the training topics, which must now include mentor training and mentorship.

NIH policy requires participation in and successful completion of instruction in responsible conduct of research by individuals supported by any NIH training/research education/fellowship/career award. It is expected that course attendance is monitored and that a certificate or documentation of participation is available upon course completion. NIH does not require certification of compliance or submission of documentation, but expects institutions to maintain records sufficient to demonstrate that NIH-supported trainees, fellows, and scholars have received the required instruction.

