Education in Responsible Conduct of Research

Summary/Purpose: Mandatory educational requirement for sponsored projects personnel to acquire knowledge of best practices in the responsible conduct of research and University, State, and Federal regulations.

POLICY

All members of the University of Mississippi strive to exemplify the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct. To support that goal, the University Research Board unanimously endorsed mandatory education in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) for all Principal Investigators and key personnel, including staff, postdoctoral fellows, and graduate and undergraduate students, participating in sponsored projects. Those personnel must complete the CITI component of the RCR curriculum below prior to receipt of sponsored program funding. In addition, PIs and their sponsored project administrators must also complete the Regulatory Compliance Education component.

Beyond promoting research integrity, the RCR curriculum is designed to help comply with the November 2009 National Institutes of Health (NIH) update on its requirement for instruction in the responsible conduct of research and the National Science Foundation (NSF) Implementation of the America COMPETES Act requirements as well as to meet national ethics education norms.

RCR CURRICULUM

1. CITI Online Education

The RCR curriculum covers basic principles that are based on best practices of research integrity. It employs the online RCR program at the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) developed by national experts, funded in part by the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Research Integrity, and hosted by the University of Miami. Content is modular with brief online tests following each module. Completion of all modules takes about 4-6 hours, and CITI notifies the UM Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) upon completion.

The CITI program provides RCR core modules that address the following discipline categories:

- Biomedical Sciences
- Humanities
- Physical Sciences
- Social and Behavioral Sciences

The core modules are:

- Research Misconduct
- Data Acquisition and Management
- Publication Practices and Responsible Authorship
- Peer Review
- Mentor and Trainee Responsibilities
• Conflict of Interest and Commitment
• Collaborative Research

2. Research Administration Education
An additional curriculum requirement for principal investigators and sponsored project administrators covers all aspects of proposal preparation and submission and post-award administration — addressing federal, state, and University regulations. The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs' Research Administration and Management Program (RAMP) consists of six modules of PowerPoint slide presentations. Education is available in three ways: modules are delivered to small groups by ORSP staff every semester; personnel can review the PowerPoint slide presentations on their own; and, by fall 2010, modules will be available online through Blackboard.

For complete information and instructions, see the ORSP RCR Education web page.