



Responsible Conduct of Research

In compliance with the National Science Foundation's (NSF) implementation of Section 7009 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 1862o-1), all undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers supported by NSF to conduct research will be required to complete training in the responsible and ethical conduct of research. The effective date of implementation is January 4, 2010 and will be applied to proposals submitted on or after January 4th and subsequently issued as an award. NSF will incorporate the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) requirement into the terms and conditions of applicable awards.

In response to this requirement, Smith College will direct NSF-supported students and postdoctoral researchers to an online course in the Responsible Conduct of Research offered by CITI,* Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative. (<https://www.citiprogram.org>). The college's IRB Administrative Assistant, working in conjunction with the Grants and Contracts Specialist, will contact Principal Investigators (PIs) immediately after an award is issued and then on a regular basis to ensure that all affected individuals complete the required training. Evidence of training (e.g., completion report) will be required within four weeks of hiring undergraduates, graduate students, and postdocs on a grant. Completion reports will be tracked by the IRB Administrative Assistant. Incidents of non-compliance will be directed to the Associate Provost.

A student or postdoc who has completed Responsible Conduct of Research training at another institution may be exempt from completing the training provided through Smith College. Proof of training must be provided to the Sponsored Research Office for consideration.

During the project period and at the closeout process of an award, the college's Grants and Contracts Specialist will work with the IRB Administrative Assistant to ensure that the RCR training requirement was satisfied.

If you have questions or concerns about this compliance plan, please contact the Sponsored Research Office.

*The CITI program is available at <https://www.citiprogram.org>. If you are a new user, create a user account and affiliate with Smith College. If you are an existing user, be sure you are affiliated with Smith College prior to completing the training. Once affiliated, follow instructions for enrolling and completing the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) module.