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Date: August 10, 2023

Subject: Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research (RECR) Training

To: Principal Investigators Applying to the National Science Foundation

From: Michael Thurston, Provost & Dean of the Faculty, and Denise McKahn, Associate Provost

Cc: Grants and Sponsored Research

We are writing with an important update regarding the National Science Foundation (NSF) requirements for Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research (RECR).

WHAT'S NEW

Since 2010, the NSF has required Responsible Conduct of Research training for undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers. Section 7009 of the America COMPETES Act (42 USC 1862o-1), as amended, expands this training requirement to include faculty and senior personnel. This Act also broadens the scope of such training to include mentoring training and training to raise awareness of research security risks as well as federal export control, disclosure, and reporting requirements.

APPLICABILITY

For proposals submitted on or after July 31, 2023, PIs, other senior personnel, undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers must complete RECR training *before* engaging in research. This requirement is applicable to individuals paid salary, wages, or stipends from an NSF award. This training requirement also applies to students receiving scholarships, tuition remission, and/or stipends from NSF while enrolled in an academic program that includes a requirement to conduct research.

AVAILABLE TRAINING

Online training is available through the [CITI Program](#). Please ensure that your user account is affiliated with Smith College prior to completing the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training. [Note: The CITI training incorporates the NSF updates for RECR, but their training title remains RCR.]

WHEN TO COMPLETE TRAINING

PIs and other senior personnel are required to complete RCR training *prior* to the set up of a new award from the NSF. Undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers will be required to complete training within 30 days of hire or engaging in NSF-funded research, whichever occurs earlier. For hiring throughout the life of an award, training must be completed within 30 days of hire. PIs are responsible for ensuring that applicable personnel and researchers are appropriately trained.

Training is documented with a certificate of completion from CITI. At this time, training is only required one time per person, including those PIs with multiple NSF awards.

COMPLIANCE OVERSIGHT

The Grants and Sponsored Research Office is responsible for tracking this training requirement, with oversight from the Office of the Provost and Dean of the Faculty. Failure to complete training will result in a delay in award set up. Questions may be directed to grants@smith.edu.

Thank you for your attention to this important change in RECR training. We appreciate your help in ensuring that the college remains compliant with the updated National Science Foundation requirements.