



RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) is “the awareness and application of established professional norms and ethical principles in the performance for all activities related to scientific research.”

The UC Davis Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Certificate Program provides education to researchers as an essential element in their training and satisfies compliance with federal regulations that require RCR training as a part of grant or contract terms and conditions. The University's RCR program requirements are consistent with the regulatory and ethical requirements established by the funding agencies.

RCR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) requirements differ by funding agency, however, the UC Davis [RCR program](#) is designed to satisfy the requirements of all funding agencies including National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Who must take RCR Training:

- All students and postdoctoral researchers working on a NIH-sponsored grant, if they are “covered individuals” on “covered awards.”
- All undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, faculty, and other senior personnel supported by NSF award funding.
- Any student or postdoc whose school or degree program requires RCR completion.

The UC Davis RCR program subscribes to the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), a subscription service providing online training to the research community. All UC Davis faculty, staff, postdoctoral scholars, graduate students, and undergraduate students involved in research that requires RCR certification must complete, at a minimum, CITI training in the Responsible Conduct for Research at <https://www.citiprogram.org/>, with additional requirements for NIH participants.

NIH requires that all trainees, fellows, participants, and scholars receiving support complete face - to - face instruction, discussions, or video conferencing of a minimum of eight contact hours. UC Davis RCR Program meets the agency's requirements by providing engaging and relevant live workshops. RCR certification requires that all attend at least eight hours of the live sessions offered to satisfy this requirement.

How to obtain RCR Certification:

- RCR participants must complete the RCR training modules via [CITI](#).
- For NIH, RCR participants must also attend eight hours of the RCR live sessions. NIH-supported undergraduates, master's degree candidates, PhD candidates, and postdoctoral researchers must complete their RCR training within two years of requirement notification.
- NSF-funded faculty and senior personnel should complete their training within their first budget period (usually one year) of receiving NSF support.
- UC Davis researchers must re-take the RCR training every three years or sooner if changing to a different career stage at UC Davis.
- RCR training certificates will be issued upon completion of CITI for NSF RCR Certification, and after completion of both CITI and eight hours of the RCR live sessions for NIH RCR Certification. Certification will be valid for three years.



Training Scope: UC Davis RCR training program is based on the core elements as identified by the National Institutes of Health Office of Research Integrity and the National Science Foundation. The training includes instruction in these essential components (not exhaustive):

- Authorship
- Collaborative Research
- Communicating with the Public
- Conflicts of Interest and Commitment
- Data Management
- Export Control
- Financial Responsibility
- Mentoring and Healthy Research Environments
- Peer Review
- Plagiarism
- Presentation of Research Findings
- Reproducibility of Research Results
- Research Involving Human Subjects
- Research Misconduct
- Research, Ethics, and Society
- Research Security
- Using Animal Subjects in Research

RESPONSIBILITIES

The PI is responsible for ensuring all research personnel have received appropriate RCR training.

The UC Davis Research Compliance Office administers the Responsible Conduct of Research Certification Program by upholding requirements set forth by granting bodies and UC Davis policies. The Research Compliance Office oversees RCR training compliance by tracking and verifying completion of the training requirements.

Noncompliance: Failure to comply shall constitute noncompliance and potential grounds for disciplinary action. Disciplinary action is based upon a reasonable investigation of the noncompliance and is consistent with the severity of the violation. These actions may include additional training/monitoring for minor violations up to limits being placed on the use of agency awarded funds for the project supporting research team members who are not in compliance, and/or loss of privilege to apply for new grant funding until the required training has been brought into compliance.

The Research Compliance Office [RCR Coordinator](#) shall make themselves available to the faculty, staff, postdoctoral scholars, and students who seek guidance with regards to general or specific issues related to RCR.