NSF RCR Training Policy

Beginning January 4, 2009, the National Science Foundation requires, at the time of proposal submission to NSF, certification by the Office of Sponsored Programs that WKU has a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research. All undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers, including faculty, who work on a NSF project and who are supported by NSF funds, must satisfy the RCR training requirement. The RCR training requirement may be satisfied by (Choose One):

1. Completion of CITI Responsible Conduct of Research training modules (www.citiprogram.org)
2. Completion of Sections 1-4 of the University of Montana Online Research Ethics Course (http://ori.dhhs.gov/education/products/montana_round1/research_ethics.html)

NSF also requires tracking of compliance with the training requirement. It is the responsibility of the PI to ensure that all personnel supported by a NSF grant meet the RCR training requirement. PI's should send documentation of training for anyone supported on a NSF grant to the Office of Sponsored Programs.

NSF RCR Training Policy/Requirement
http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf10_1/aag_4.jsp#IVB

1. Background

The responsible and ethical conduct of research (RCR) is critical for excellence, as well as public trust, in science and engineering. Consequently, education in RCR is considered essential in the preparation of future scientists and engineers. Section 7009 of the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (COMPETES) Act (42 U.S.C. 1862o–1 requires 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.”

The language specified below provides NSF’s implementation of Section 7009.

2. Institutional Responsibilities

a. An institution must have a plan in place to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers who will be supported by NSF to conduct research. As noted in GPG Chapter II.C.1e, institutional certification to this effect is required for each proposal.

b. While training plans are not required to be included in proposals submitted to NSF, institutions are advised that they are subject to review, upon request.

c. An institution must designate one or more persons to oversee compliance with the RCR training requirement.

d. Institutions are responsible for verifying that undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers supported by NSF to conduct research have received training in the responsible and ethical conduct of research.