

Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)
Training Plan Procedures for Graduate and Undergraduate Students and Post-Doctoral
Research Assistants/Associates Participating in Federally Funded Research

Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) is committed to the ethical conduct of research by faculty, staff and students who conduct research.

In compliance with the federal agency policies in response to the America COMPETES Act, SFA developed this 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 federally funded research.

Training is applicable to all new NSF awards applied for and received after January 1, 2010, and all other federal awards as detailed in award documents and specific agency guidelines, including the USDA.

Training Programs

1. Each individual, subject to this requirement, will be required to complete the free, online RCR course offered by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) and/or equivalent instructor-provided training.
2. The Principal Investigator/Project Director (PI/PD) is responsible for ensuring that the appropriate topic(s) for the on-line training program is completed in a timely manner and that the appropriate documentation is forwarded to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs for record retention.
3. Discipline specific RCR topic areas include: biomedical; social & behavioral research; physical sciences; humanities; engineers; and administrators.

The RCR topic areas include: research misconduct; data management; conflict of interest; collaborative science; responsible authorship; mentoring; peer review; lab animals; and human subjects.

4. The PI/PD is encouraged to provide mentoring to students in the following areas *as applicable to the specific research or program design* in addition to the online program and to refer the student to applicable resources (SFA policies, procedures, committees, etc.):
 - a. Data acquisition, management, sharing, and ownership
 - b. Publication practices and responsible authorship, and collaborative research
 - c. Conflicts of interest
 - d. Human subjects protection
 - e. Animal use and care/animal welfare
 - f. Research misconduct

CITI website: <https://www.citiprogram.org/rcrpage.asp?language=english&affiliation=100>