**National Science Foundation (NSF) Implementation of the
American Competes Act Requirements**

A. Background:

Effective May 20, 2024, NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG 24-1) expands the requirements for Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research (RCR). All faculty and senior/key personnel named on NSF proposals must now complete RCR training. This requirement is in addition to the longstanding requirement for undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers supported by NSF to conduct research.

Effective October 10, 2025, NSF Important Notice No.149 requires training addressing mentor training and mentorship, awareness of potential research security threats, and Federal export control, disclosure, and reporting requirements.

Note: This RCR plan does **not** cover **Research Security Training (RST)**, which is a separate requirement under NSF Important Notice No. 149.

B. UCCS Training Plan:

- All faculty and other senior/key personnel named on the proposal and any undergraduate or graduate students and postdocs supported (paid or unpaid) by the NSF grant will be required to complete, within their discipline category, modules and pass tests covering core RCR areas. Participants will complete only the modules assigned in their discipline categories; not all modules listed below apply to every discipline category:

    - Introduction to RCR
    - Research Misconduct
    - Data Acquisition, Management, Sharing and Ownership
    - Publication Practices and Responsible Authorship
    - Peer Review
    - Mentor and Trainee Responsibilities
    - Conflicts of Interest and Commitment
    - Collaborative Research
    - Basic Security Risk
    - Export Control Compliance

    This course is hosted by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) at the University of Miami. We estimate that it should take between one and a half and three hours to complete. Responsible Conduct of Research training *does not* replace other training, such as IRB, IBC, or Research Security requirements.

- Live RCR campus events, in addition to CITI RCR training above, **and**

- Discipline specific mentoring by the PI/PD and key personnel during the course of the grant.
- Documentation of the RCR training will be maintained by the PI/PD as part of the project records. The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Compliance (OSPRI) may occasionally request documentation from PIs/PDs during the course of their funded program.

1. **<u>Online Training:</u>**

   UCCS subscribes to the online RCR program offered by [CITI](#).

   The CITI program offers RCR core modules that are customized to various discipline categories:

   - Faculty and Senior Personnel
   - Social and Behavioral
   - Physical Sciences
   - Humanities
   - Administrators
   - Engineers

   Personnel should choose the category most relevant to their discipline. Frequency for CITI RCR course is every 4 years.

2. **<u>Live RCR Training</u>**

   To learn more about Live RCR training and events, visit [UCCS's RCR website](#).

   Attending campus Live RCR sessions is **strongly** encouraged to complement the on line RCR program offered through CITI.

3. **<u>Ongoing Mentoring</u>**

   All undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdocs supported by the NSF grant shall receive continuing education in the RCR topics specific to their research setting during the course of their participation in the NSF project. The PI/PD shall oversee mentoring and may include interactive discussions during individual and group sessions, attendance in formal presentations or educational courses or scientific meetings, and direct guidance as part of the conduct of the project.

   The PI/PD will maintain documentation of the mentored activities as part of the project records. The Office of Sponsored Programs and Research Integrity may occasionally request documentation from the PIs/PDs during the course of their funded program.

C. Certifications:

With the submission of the grant application, OPSRI certifies that all faculty, other senior personnel named on the proposal, undergraduate students, graduate students and postdocs supported by the NSF grant will successfully complete an institutional program of education in the Responsible Conduct of Research.

OSPRI will occasionally ask for additional information from PIs/PDs during the course of their funded program.

Contact OSPRI (composp@uccs.edu or 719-255-3044) with questions or for further information.