

## GRD 717: RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH (RCR) TRAINING

### Rationale / Description

Funding agencies, such as NIH, NSF and NEH, have expectations and requirements with regard to RCR training for trainees involved in research. To meet these expectations and requirements, all doctoral (PhD) graduate students as well as postdoctoral (PD) fellows engaged in any mentored research activities at UAB are required to complete the RCR training plan described below either in their first year of mentored research (PD) or prior to admission to candidacy (PhD); training must occur at least once every four years.

This training plan is a blended approach that combines on-line instruction and in-person training components. It was drafted in consultation with faculty and staff from UAB professional schools, including but not limited to the UAB School of Medicine and the UAB Graduate School. It is patterned after related programs at other research-intensive institutions (e.g. Duke, Emory, etc).

### On-line Training Components

On-line training includes successful completion of all CITI Program RCR modules as listed below; successful completion of each module is defined as a quiz score of 80% or greater.

#### CITI RCR modules:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| ○ introduction to RCR                                | ○ data management                       |
| ○ research, ethics, and society                      | ○ plagiarism                            |
| ○ research misconduct                                | ○ authorship                            |
| ○ mentoring  | ○ peer review                           |
| ○ collaborative research                             | ○ conflict of interest                  |
| ○ use of animal subjects in research                 | ○ research involving human subjects     |
| ○ environmental and social dimensions of engineering | ○ export controls and national security |

### In-person Training Components

In-person training requires successful completion of all of the on-line training modules prior to participation in an eight-hour workshop, which includes discussion of RCR case studies and participation in interactive elements. With this design, in-person training reinforces the information contained within the online modules and provides an opportunity to explore the intersectionality of RCR topics. The in-person training workshops are facilitated by a team of graduate faculty who have active research programs and extensive training experience. Workshops are offered on Saturdays in order to accommodate trainees' research schedules; accommodations for trainees unable to participate on Saturdays are also provided.

### Documentation / Evaluation

Successful completion of both on-line and in-person training components is documented via on-line quizzes and workshop attendance. Metrics to evaluate the success of GRD 717 RCR training include:

- percentage/number of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows who complete on-line and in-person training successfully based on overall number required
- the number of graduate faculty who participate as facilitators of the in-person workshop
- feedback from trainees, faculty, and training program directors regarding trainees' knowledge and practice of RCR in a research setting