Auburn University
Responsible Conduct of Research Training Plan

The purpose of the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Training Plan is to outline institutional training requirements in RCR. This plan is a working document that will be revised based on future assessment and evaluation.

Goals

• To educate faculty, staff, and students to conduct research ethically and in a manner that supports the integrity of the institution.

• Promote responsible conduct of research strategies.

• Increase awareness of the consequences that research has on society.

Training Plan

Scope: All faculty, staff, and students involved in research and related activities should receive training in conducting research in a manner that supports ethical and responsible standards. All faculty, staff, and students conducting research as a part of any sponsored project are encouraged to complete formal training in responsible and ethical conduct of research.

Required RCR training is currently dependent on sponsor requirements. All program directors, faculty, undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and any staff participating research on any projects funded by the United States Department of Agriculture – National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) must receive RCR training in accordance with NIFA requirements.

Offerings: The CITI on-line training course in RCR will be accepted to fulfill RCR training for NIFA. The CITI training program meets the NIFA RCR training requirements. Further, CITI allows the institution to provide consistent training and accurately maintain training documentation.

RCR Training includes the following subjects:

1. Publication Practices and Responsible Authorship
2. Data Acquisition, Management, Sharing and Ownership
3. Human Subjects Protection (IRB)
4. Animal Welfare (IACUC)
5. Peer Review
6. Conflict of Interest and Commitment
7. Scientific Misconduct
8. Collaborative Research
9. Mentor and Trainee Responsibilities

Roles and Responsibilities:

• The Office of Sponsored Programs in conjunction with the Office of Research Compliance will be responsible for selecting, providing, and evaluating the training program.

• Faculty, staff, and students who participate in research activities in which the sponsor requires RCR training will complete the CITI RCR training program.

• The PI will identify those individuals who are required to complete CITI RCR training and ensure completion along with forwarding of training documentation to the appropriate Department Head(s).

• Department Heads will maintain training records and ensure that training requirements are being fulfilled.