AFRE’s Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Plan
Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research is essential in the preparation of future scholars and professionals. An understanding of the issues concerning the conduct of research in an increasingly complex world has become critical in successfully navigating the research landscape. To help prepare Michigan State University graduate students for their future scholarly work, a plan for providing the foundation of responsible conduct has been developed in coordination with the Graduate School, the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies Office, and college associate deans for graduate education. The plan is predicated on the principles that a basic understanding of issues is necessary through didactic training and a periodic reinforcement of the principles through discussion. It is the belief that this plan will provide a foundation for all graduate students as well as others pursuing a career in research and will offer the basic information to meet most, if not all, federal agency granting requirements.

The plan below represents AFRE’s plan, which incorporates the basic university requirements.1

For all graduate professional, master’s and doctoral students:

1) Year 1
All new graduate and graduate professional students will complete 4 CITI online modules within the first year of enrollment in their program:

- Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research
- Authorship
- Plagiarism
- Research Misconduct

Completion of this requirement will be tracked in SABA

2) Discussion-Based Training
All graduate and graduate professional students must complete 6 hours of discussion-based training prior to receiving their degrees. These hours can be completed at any point in the graduate program, including during the first 2 years. The Graduate School RCR Workshop series may be used to help fulfill both the annual refresher and discussion-based training requirements.

For master’s Plan A and PhD students completion of this requirement will be recorded by the department in GradInfo as “Initial” training.

1 Students who are supported by NSF, NIH, or USDA grants may be required to complete additional specific training; they must meet the timeline and content requirements of training for that grant. Students engaged in research involving human subjects or animal use must complete the Michigan State University training modules for those subjects before submitting IRB or IACUC approvals. These modules may be completed as part of the training requirements below.
For Master’s plan A and doctoral students:

In addition to 1 and 2 above, master’s plan A and doctoral students will complete:

3) Year 2
Within the first 2 years of enrollment in their program, master’s plan A and doctoral students will complete 3 additional MSU online training modules, to be selected from the following list:

- CITI Collaborative Research
- CITI Conflicts of Interest
- CITI Data Management
- CITI Financial Responsibility
- CITI Mentoring
- CITI Peer Review
- IACUC Tutorial for Animal Care Training (in http://Train.ORA.msu.edu)
- Rigor and Reproducibility Course (in production)

Completion of this requirement will be tracked in SABA.

In addition to 1, 2 and 3 above, doctoral students will complete:

4) Annual Refresher Training
Starting in year 3, all doctoral students must complete 3 hours of annual refresher training; this can include discussion-based training and online courses beyond the 7 required in basic training.

Completion of this requirement will be recorded by the department in GradInfo as “Annual” training.
RCR Minimum Plan requirements

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