

RESEARCH

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Related Policies: Code of
Ethical Conduct; Faculty
Handbook; Policy on
Research Misconduct;
Policies on Conflict of
Interest and Commitment

Responsible
Office/Department:
Research Administration
and Finance

Keywords: Research,
integrity; research ethics;
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peer review

Policy on the Responsible Conduct of Research

I. Purpose and Scope

Northeastern University adheres to professional practices that encompass scholarly and research integrity. The university promotes and participates in the instruction of the responsible conduct of research (RCR) for all faculty, students and staff. The university's goal is to develop and make available programs and materials to support the practice of responsible research.

II. Definitions

For purposes of this policy,

The **responsible conduct of research** means *the practice of scientific investigation with integrity. It involves the awareness and application of established professional norms and ethical principles in the performance of all activities related to scientific research.*

III. Policy

All Northeastern University undergraduate students, graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, including short-term visitors, paid by NSF research awards subject to the America COMPETES Act, and anyone receiving support through any NIH training, career development award (individual or institutional), research education grant, or dissertation research grant, must participate in instructional programs in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR), which are consistent with the legal, regulatory, and ethical requirements established by regulatory agencies, funding sources, professional organizations, and the University's Plan for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research.

RCR instruction, as defined by federal agencies and by various scientific societies, covers the following content areas:

- Collaborative Science
- Research Ethics and the Role of the Scientist
- Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Commitment
- Data Acquisition, Management, Sharing and Ownership

- Mentor/Trainee Responsibilities
- Peer Review
- Publication Practices and Responsible Authorship
- Research Misconduct
- Research Involving Human Subjects
- Research Involving Animals

IV. Additional Information

In order to facilitate more meaningful training, modules will be tailored for the four broad disciplinary categories of biomedical research, social and behavioral research, physical science, and humanities. Detailed instruction in the last two content areas is required for those engaging in human subject research, animal research, and laboratory research, and is provided through the Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) and Institutional Animal Care & Use Committees (IACUCs) respectively.

The federal agencies' RCR policies can be found at:

<http://www.northeastern.edu/research/responsible-conduct-of-research/nsf-rcr-policy/>

<http://www.northeastern.edu/research/responsible-conduct-of-research/nih-rcr-policy/>

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[*Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative \(CITI\) website*](#)