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

A.   Background:

Effective 31 July 2023, per the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) ([NSF 23-1](#)) the [requirements](#) for Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research (RCR) has expanded for NSF proposals submitted on or after 7/31/2023.

All faculty and other senior personnel named on the proposal must complete an RCR training plan. Please note there are no changes to the required training for postdocs, graduate students and undergraduates conducting research on an NSF-supported project.

Effective 4 January 2010, a requirement is in place for all applications submitted to NSF for a deadline on or after this date, pursuant to the American Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education and Science (COMPETES).

[NSF's Implementation of Section 7009 of the America COMPETES Act](#) requires institutions in receipt of NSF funds provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research for undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers who are supported by NSF to conduct research.

By submitting an application, UCCS and the Principal Investigator/ Project Director (PI/PD) are certifying that all undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdocs supported (paid or unpaid) by that grant will successfully complete an institutional program of education in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR).

B.   UCCS Training Plan:

- Successful completion of selected modules of the on-line RCR program hosted by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) at the University of Miami; attending Live RCR campus events **and**

- Discipline specific mentoring by the PI/PD and key personnel during the course of the grant.

1. Online Training:

UCCS subscribes to the on-line RCR program offered by CITI, https://www.citiprogram.org/

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

Faculty and Senior Personnel	Humanities

Social and Behavioral	Administrators
Physical Sciences	Engineers

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 - https://rcr.uccs.edu/
Attending campus Live RCR sessions is **strongly** encouraged to complement the on-line RCR program offered through CITI.

All faculty and other senior personnel named on the proposal and any undergraduate, graduate students and postdocs supported (paid or unpaid) by the NSF grant will be required to complete, within their discipline category, chapters and pass tests covering the following RCR core areas. We estimate that this should take between one and a half and three hours to complete:

- 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

Responsible conduct of research training *does not* replace IRB or IBC requirements.

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.

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. Mentoring shall be overseen by the PI/PD 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.

Documentation of the mentored activities will be maintained by the PI/PD as part of the project records. The Office of Sponsored Programs will occasionally be requesting 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 255-3044) with questions or for further information.