

## New NSF Requirement for Training in Research Ethics

All proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) after January 4, 2010, must contain a certification from an OSP authorized official that the University of Vermont has a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) for all undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers who receive financial support from the grant. Training plans do not need to be submitted with the proposal, but are subject to review by NSF upon request. Principal Investigators are responsible for overseeing training activities and verifying that undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral associates receive training. Such training should be provided within the first year of their involvement in the project.

UVM has subscribed to an on-line RCR training program offered by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) to assist Principal Investigators in meeting this requirement. CITI offers discipline-specific modules with imbedded case studies and quizzes. Students with passing grades (80%) receive a certificate of completion and a completion record is maintained within the system.

For more information about CITI, see the on-line training section of OSP's Responsible Conduct of Research link on the OSP web page:

<http://www.uvm.edu/~ospuvm/?Page=RCR/OnlineTraining.htm>

The following steps must be taken in order to meet this new requirement.

1. When we receive an NSF award with this new requirement OSP's Pre-Award Services will verify with the Principal Investigator what plan will be followed to provide this instruction. Plans may include:
  - a. completion of CITI Modules (minimum requirement),
  - b. completion of CITI Modules augmented with lab discussions, readings, or other materials or,
  - c. an alternative plan such as enrollment in a UVM course, seminars provided within the lab or a different on-line offering.
2. Principal Investigators must keep records of such training and provide them to OSP upon request, or when they submit their final progress report.

While we anticipate that the CITI modules will assist in these tasks, and in particular, with the documentation of training, we strongly encourage investigators to augment this training with face-to-face instruction and discussions.

Please feel free to contact Ruth Farrell ([Ruth.Farrell@uvm.edu](mailto:Ruth.Farrell@uvm.edu) or 656-3360) if you would like to discuss any aspect of this new requirement.