Responsible Conduct of Research: Training Policy
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Revised Fall 2012

Background: Beginning in January 2010, the National Science Foundation (NSF) began requiring the following certification be included in all proposal submissions:

 "An institution must have a plan in place to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers who will be supported by NSF to conduct research."
(http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf10_1/aag_4.jsp#IVB)

Basic Policy: In response to the NSF certification requirement, the Office of Research and Creative Activity (ORCA), with administrative support from the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research (SPR), will oversee delivery of RCR training at UNO. The RCR training is required of trainees who are involved as researchers in projects supported by NSF funds: post-doctoral research associates and graduate and undergraduate students. This training needs to be taken within or before the first semester of involvement in the NSF-funded project. Others involved in UNO research endeavors are encouraged to receive training, especially students, as this training is an important part of professional development. SPR will keep a record of those who have completed the RCR training. RCR training is valid for 18 months, after which researchers must retrain.   RCR training completed by a trainee under the formal RCR training program of one of UNO's sister campuses (UNMC, UNL, UNK) may be used to satisfy the UNO RCR training requirement and will also be valid for 18 months. Evidence of completion of such RCR training must be provided to SPR before the end of the first semester of a trainee's involvement in the research program.

Delivery of RCR training: UNO utilizes a series of online interactive tutorials on the "Responsible Conduct of Research" available to groups affiliated with educational or other non-profit institutions on the NSF Ethics CORE website at http://nationalethicscenter.org. The interactive tutorials were created by the Center on Materials and Devices for Information Technology Research with the support of NSF.

Campus deliberation of the RCR Policy: The original Training Policy was shared with the Deans' Forum, the Faculty Senate, and the University Committee on Research and Creative Activity, along with requests for feedback and input. The RCR Training Policy continues to evolve in response to external and internal factors.

Original Policy Approved: UNO Chancellor's Cabinet, 2/16/2010
Revised: 11/28/2012