

## **Responsible Conduct of Research for Undergraduate Students, Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Researchers participating in National Science Foundation Research Projects**

University of Michigan's Plan for Compliance with NSF's implementation of Section 7009 of the America COMPETES Act

The University of Michigan is committed to fostering an environment of responsible conduct of research. As part of this commitment and in compliance with NSF's implementation of Section 7009 of the America COMPETES Act, the University requires that all NSF-supported undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers complete appropriate training in the responsible and ethical conduct of research. Similar requirements have applied to NIH training programs for some time, and are likely to apply to research grants at NIH and other federal agencies in the near future.

The University has established the Program for Education and Evaluation in Responsible Research and Scholarship (PEERRS). PEERRS consists of on-line educational modules and short tests covering basic rules, procedures and professional norms for the responsible conduct of research. The Office of the Vice President for Research maintains certification records of completion of the PEERRS.

All undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers participating in NSF-supported research projects are required to complete the PEERRS module "Foundation of Good Research Practices" and pass the test with a minimum grade of 80%. In addition, NSF-supported graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers are required to complete the "Authorship, Publication, and Peer Review" PEERRS module. U-M plans to continue to enhance the online RCR training programs over the next year to provide additional training options and improve linkages to U-M resources such as the PLAN: Profession, Life, Academics, Network (<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/plan/>). Additional training options will include the PIBS503 short course on RCR, offering a combination of online and in-person training to bioscientists at the graduate and postdoctoral level.

The Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and Rackham Graduate School have created a joint task force to examine and implement resources for RCR training that can be adapted to multiple fields of research and scholarship. The intent is to provide content for modules that are both applicable to all areas (Integrity in Scholarship, Plagiarism, and Copyright issues) and discipline-specific in a format that is compatible with both verifiable online training, group discussions of RCR issues, and personal mentoring. It is intended that the Task Force create a user-friendly and adaptable online platform and the widely applicable "front end" modules, while more discipline-specific modules are created in collaboration with participating schools and colleges. College/School and Department specific requirements will be posted on U-M's RCR Web Site.

Resources for postdoctoral mentoring are posted at:  
[http://www.rackham.umich.edu/faculty\\_staff/ensuring\\_success/promising\\_practices/mentoring\\_advising/](http://www.rackham.umich.edu/faculty_staff/ensuring_success/promising_practices/mentoring_advising/)